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KENT ON SUNDAY

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IT'S WHAT SUNDAYS ARE ALL ABOUT

No.348 May 24, 2009

INSIDE THIS WEEK'S PAPER

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Reader offer – see inside

RUNDOWN ON THE UK SCRAPPAGE SCHEME

MP FIGHTS BACK OVER EXPENSES

Legal threat over £30k 'flipping' allegations

STANDING FIRM: John Austin

A LABOUR MP has defended spending £10,000 of taxpayers' money redecorating his second home before selling it for a £30,000 profit.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

Erith and Thamesmead member John Austin is one of the latest politicians to be caught up in the Daily Telegraph's expenses claims exposé, but denies any wrongdoing.

The newspaper reported that Mr Austin bought a new flat after selling his old one, claiming a further £10,000 in stamp duty and charges, as well as £15,000 on a bathroom, kitchen, carpets and appliances for the new home.

It added that the 64-year-old was the perfect example of an MP who profited by "flipping" his expenses claims to a new second home.

However, Mr Austin – who lists his main home as a house in Belvedere – said he believed all of his claims were "within both the rules and the spirit of the regulations, and considerably below any guideline figures".

He added: "I did move from my original London flat in 2006, following a series of problems with the accommodation and a protracted dispute with the freeholder.

"As the move was for a valid reason I thought it appropriate for costs associated with the move to be claimed from the allowance, and I sought and received approval from the House of Commons authorities in advance."

The Telegraph also claimed Mr Austin had increased his mortgage – the interest of which is paid from the public purse – to fund work on his new flat.

However, Mr Austin described the accusation as "completely untrue" and said that at no time did he increase his mortgage for renovations or for any other purpose.

He said he was considering legal action against the Telegraph over the allegations.

Mr Austin is one of four Kent Parliamentarians to have been featured in the Daily Telegraph's

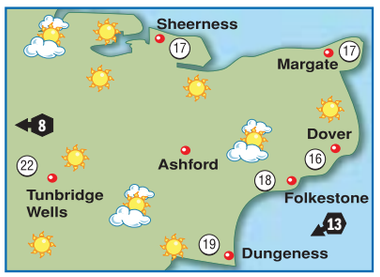
CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO

Director's 'awful' trio led him to a star pair

SEE INSIDE FOR FULL STORY

* Includes all surcharges and taxes. See website for details and full terms and conditions.

Kent today



TODAY: It will be sunny with just a little patchy cloud from time to time, and lots of blue sky. A light to moderate easterly wind. Max temp 19-22C (66-72F).

TONIGHT: Dry with clear spells and glimpses of the moon. Light or moderate north-easterly winds. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

Around Britain

		°C	°F			°C	°F
Aberdeen	fair	17	63	London	sun	18	64
Belfast	sun	22	72	Liverpool	sun	23	73
Birmingham	fair	17	63	Manchester	sun	20	68
B'mouth	sun	21	70	Newcastle	sun	19	66
Bristol	sun	17	63	Norwich	sun	19	66
Cardiff	sun	19	66	Oxford	sun	22	72
Cork	sun	16	61	Southsea	sun	21	70
Edinburgh	fair	17	63	S'hampton	sun	18	64
Glasgow	fair	16	61	Southport	sun	21	70
Isle of Man	sun	13	55	Swansea	fair	18	64
Leeds	sun	19	66	Torquay	sun	18	64

Sun & moon

Sunrise	4.51am	Sunset	8.54pm	Lighting up times: 8.54pm to 4.50am
Moonrise	4.09am	Moonset	9.39pm	

High Tides

	today				tomorrow			
	ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)		ht (m)	
Dover	11.23	6.5	23.41	6.6	–	–	12.11	6.6
Margate	–	–	12.33	4.5	00.50	4.6	13.18	4.5
St Mary's	05.02	5.5	17.24	5.6	05.48	5.6	18.09	5.7

Week ahead

monday Dull and wet. max 20C min 12C

tuesday Sunny spells. max 18C min 9C

wednesday The risk of rain. max 18C min 10C

thursday Sunny spells. max 21C min 11C

friday Sunny spells. max 22C min 11C

saturday Cloudy. Dry. max 22C min 11C

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KCC announces figures early to promote transparency

Expenses released in show of openness

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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COUNTY councillors in Kent claimed more than £1.7 million in allowances and expenses last year, according to new figures.

As shocking revelations over MPs expenses continue to disrupt Westminster, Kent County Council released the stats early in a show of "openness and transparency" ahead of next month's county council elections.

The figures do not reveal any penchants for moats or swimming pools, but they do show the councillors prefer to claim mileage for their cars rather than using public transport.

KCC's 84 members claimed £143,949 in mileage allowances and £11,457 in fares, which could include taxis if councillors prove that getting public transport was impractical.

Allowances are set by the Member Remuneration Panel, which is independent of the council, and all councillors receive a basic of £12,000 a year to perform their duties.

Councillors receive an additional allowance for any special responsibility, such as being a cabinet member or committee chairman.

KCC's leader Paul Carter received the most – £56,450 – which includes £41,000 for special responsibilities and £3,449 for travel expenses.

The Labour leader at the council, Mike Eddy, claimed £38,744. He got £20,499 for his committee work and a further £6,164 on travel, although Dr Eddy, who lives in Deal, lives a distance from County Hall in Maidstone.

Trudy Dean, leader of the Lib Dems, claimed only £12,156 but does not have any special responsibilities listed.

A spokesman for the authority said: "The figures have been released early in a spirit of openness and transparency as there is an election coming up on June 4."

The full list of allowances and expenses is at www.kent.gov.uk/council-and-democracy.

HONESTY: Conservative council leader Paul Carter and Labour leader Mike Eddy, along with the rest of the county council members have had their expenses claims released early

List of casualties grows in claims furore

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

lengthy series on expense claims, which has led to a highly publicised system shake-up.

Earlier this month, Medway MP Bob Marshall-Andrews came under fire for spending thousands on luxury items and redecorating at his Rochester flat, while Sittingbourne and Sheppey representative Derek Wyatt was targeted in a tongue-in-cheek article for claiming money back on mini pork pies and Scotch eggs.

Sevenoaks Tory MP Michael Fallon has also come under the spotlight for claiming £8,300 too much in mortgage expenses for his second home in 2004. Mr Fallon was out of the country this week, but a statement on his website said the claim was made in error and fully corrected at the time.

It said: "The main claims were routine costs properly authorised from the second homes allowance.

"I have strictly followed Fees Office advice throughout."

The expenses expose has led to a number of high-profile victims in Parliament, the most notable of which was Speaker Michael Martin who resigned on Tuesday.

Mr Austin said he agreed the expenses system for MPs was in need of a complete overhaul.

He said: "The present allowance system is flawed and can be subject to abuse.

"I have consistently argued that the senior salaries review body, or some similar independent body, should determine MPs' pay and the whole range of allowances.

"I do, therefore, welcome the Prime Minister's statement that we need a new system that takes it out of the hands of MPs entirely."

Permanent changes to the current system are due to be made upon publication of an independent review in the autumn, but until then there will be a £1,250-a-month cap on mortgage interest and rent payments.

There will also be a ban on flipping second homes and on claiming for furniture, cleaning and stamp duty.

Mr Austin is retiring at the next general election and his successor candidate was named last weekend as Teresa Pearce.

However, the selection process was previously thrown into disarray when a seal on one of the ballot boxes was broken and the count was called off.

Mr Austin has since accused national Labour party officials of "hijacking" the selection for his successor.

County's beaches 'recommended' among UK's best

KENT has bucked the national trend in the Good Beach Guide with a total of 21 beaches achieving the 'recommended' rating.

This rating is above the European Union water cleanliness standard and means swimming, surfing or paddling is totally safe.

A further five achieved a 'basic pass', while just one, Sandgate, failed.

Those on the recommended list include Ramsgate Main Sands, Joss Bay, Botany Bay, Walpole Bay, St Mildred's Bay and Minnis Bay.

Nationally the figures showed a marked decrease from last year's figures with just 340 of the 777 surveyed being classed as recommended. Experts are blaming the poor showing on last summer's heavy rainfall causing excessive discharge from sewerage and storm flow systems.

Thomas Bell, the Marine Conservation Society's coastal pollution officer, is convinced that sewerage and storm overflow systems need to be updated urgently.

Discharge

He said: "MCS is now recommending 25 per cent fewer beaches than three years ago and we're becoming concerned the existing infrastructure for handling storm pollution may not be up to the job.

"There are 22,000 combined sewer overflows around the country and 500 near beaches. They are supposed to cope with a flooding emergency.

"We suspect there is a design fault, however, and the seasonal population increase combined with steady rain fills the sewers beyond their tipping point. We believe that some places are suffering from excessive discharge from these overflows."

He called on the Environment Agency and water companies to find the cause of the pollution.

One possibility is that run-off from farmland, such as fertiliser, slurry and cattle or sheep faeces, is contaminating rivers.

Mr Bell added: "It's almost a lucky dip for bathers. If it's tipping with rain you take your chances in the water but if it's a long, hot, dry summer water quality will improve."

Man's shed load of trouble over allotment thefts

A 25-YEAR-OLD man has been charged with burglary following nine shed break-ins at a Maidstone allotment.

Aaron Crampton, of Sheals Court, Old Tovil Road, Maidstone, was charged with one count of burglary dwelling, which took place on March 10 at the allotments in Upper Fant Road.

He asked for eight similar offences to be taken into consideration when he appears at Maidstone magistrates on June 5.

He has been released on bail.

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Hoffman blockbuster tests director's nerves

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

'Awful' student movies set Joel on his way to working with Hollywood's top stars

BAFTA-winning film director Joel Hopkins admits three "awful" movies he created in Kent helped set him on the road to Hollywood.

The 38-year-old, whose second release Last Chance Harvey hits cinema screens next month, studied at Canterbury Christ Church University in the early 1990s and looks back on his time there with fond memories.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday this week, Hopkins said his time in the county helped him get to where he is today – and that's working with the likes of movie megastars Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson.

He said: "I had a great time at Christ Church and it played a very important part in my career. I made three films that were awful and pretentious, but at least I got them out of my system.

"The best thing about the university was that it wasn't a pressure-cooker environment. You could try different things and not be fearful of people laughing at you – and when you're just starting out that's healthy.

"There were also such a weird mix of students doing everything from sport science to art, English and film and I met so many different characters.

"For me to get out of London and away from my clique was really good for me, and it was all a learning curve.

"The only disappointing thing for me was that a new Pizza Express opened the day I left and I was crying out for one of them when I was there."

Hopkins, who also studied at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts after leaving Kent, released his first film Jump Tomorrow in 2001.

Despite only reaching a small audience, the romantic comedy received strong reviews and earned Hopkins the award for most promising newcomer at that year's Baftas.

ON SET: Hopkins (right) with the top duo

The judges' confidence in his abilities appears to be warranted, as Last Chance Harvey has received critical acclaim despite Hopkins admitting he was at first intimidated by his A-list cast.

Critics

He said: "I can't pretend I wasn't overawed, but the great thing about film-making is that you have very little time to worry about things like that.

"During the run-up to shooting I kept wondering what I was going to say to actors of the calibre of Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson, but once I got down to the nuts and bolts I just forgot about who they were.

"It's amazing how quickly you lose that star-struck feeling when you're busy, but every now and then I'd look at them through a camera, remember who they were and fall spiralling back into insecurity."

Last Chance Harvey tells the tale of a middle-aged American (Hoffman) who visits London and unexpectedly falls in love with an Englishwoman (Thompson).

Apart from keeping his fingers crossed that the film will be as popular with cinemagoers as it is with the critics, Hopkins said he was reading a number of scripts with hopes of directing his first movie that was not also written by him.

He also said he was "very interested" in returning to Kent to shoot a future project.

Hopkins said: "One moment you'll be in an incredibly rural area in Kent, but then you'll turn a corner and remember you're not actually that far away from London.

"I found the county a very interesting place and I'd love to come back and film something here one day."

• ***Last Chance Harvey hits cinema screens nationwide on Friday, June 5.***

Driver has a lot to 'wine' about

RETIRED bank manager Peter Wilkinson, 64, was advised by his GP to drink a glass of red wine last thing at night for medical reasons.

Wilkinson, from Hawkinge, near Folkestone, suffers from a liver complaint after he suffered a pulminory embolism. He gets tremors which leave him shaking, and the wine helps relax him.

But he had another glass within 12 hours and crashed into a telegraph pole after he was cut up on the A274 near Biddenden.

He appeared at Canterbury Magistrates Court after he was found to be one-and-a-half times over the drink drive limit.

David Nelson, defending, said police failed to contact relatives after he was taken to William Harvey Hospital and while he was unconscious at the hospital his wedding ring was taken from him.

To add insult to injury, when police sent him a summons they didn't put enough postage on it.

Mr Wilkinson admitted drink driving and was banned for 18 months, fined £350 and ordered to pay £15 victim surcharge.

Magistrates knocked £1 off the £35 costs to pay for the extra postage.

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Staff shortages hit care of vulnerable children

Long wait for vital support highlighted in report

By STEVE KNIGHT
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CHILDREN in care can be made to wait up to 18 months before receiving mental health support from social workers.

That is one of the findings in a report of the county's Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO) service, which chairs and monitors the reviews of all 'looked-after' children.

The paper – which covers the period from January 1 to December 31 last year – also reveals that not all youngsters in care have an allocated social worker due to staff shortages, sickness and "pressure of child protection work".

Members of Kent County Council's children's champion board received the report at their meeting on Wednesday.

Vulnerable

Kent Labour leader, Cllr Mike Eddy, said it showed the Conservatives were letting down the county's vulnerable children.

He said: "Time and again we've seen that the welfare of children in need is not a priority for the Conservatives.

"Social workers are overstretched and under pressure, children don't get the mental health support they need and the county council skimps on support to the reviewing officers who monitor the council's actions.

"You'd think KCC was short of cash, and yet the Conservatives obviously think they can still afford to waste money on a TV station, image consultants and sky-high salaries for a select few."

According to the report, in about 35 per cent of cases review officers do not receive care plans for the child in question until the day of the review and even then they are often incomplete.

In some instances officers also do not receive sufficient information for them to make decisions about a child's future.

However, the report also points out that the issues are raised "within the context of generally high performance" by children's social services at KCC.

Cabinet member for children and families, Cllr Leyland Ridings, said it was important problem areas were identified.

He said: "If there's something we need to do then we will get on and do it, so practice issues should be pointed out. There's no point concentrating on all the good things.

"I disagree that we are neglecting Kent's children in care. We employ 15 full-time IROs who collectively chair just under 4,000 reviews each year.

"Out of those, other staff have had to chair just 33 and they were still subject to a further review by the group manager.

"Ninety-five per cent of those were completed on time, compared to a national average of 89 per cent."

Cllr Ridings added that investment in new technology as well as an extra £1 million being pumped into children's social services this year would lead to further improvements.

Changes implemented following Lord Laming's inquiry into the Baby Peter scandal should also have a positive effect on next year's report.

Cllr Ridings said: "I would hope to see a regime of continuous improvement.

"There is no way we can get everything right all of the time but we have to make sure we look after the safety of these young people and I don't think that will be a problem."

To watch this clip search 'sole'
@ yourkenttv.co.uk

Produced in Kent's Soul to Sole Fish Trail combines not only the wealth of quality fish we have in the county but also the beautiful coastline, as Julie Maddocks discovered.

Drug dealer jailed

A MAN who spat blood at a police officer has been sentenced to four years in prison for drug dealing and assault offences.

Darryl Spearpoint, of no fixed address, pleaded guilty to charges of possession with intent to supply and assault on a police officer, at Maidstone Crown Court on Friday.

Officers from the neighbourhood task team in Medway received information that the 34-year-old was believed to be drug dealing in Chatham.

He was found in possession of drugs but as the team were arresting him, Spearpoint became extremely aggressive and spat blood into the face and mouth of one of the officers.

MP questions faith

TORY MP Julian Brazier has called for a House of Commons debate over prejudice against Christians in the workplace.

The Canterbury and Whitstable representative asked for the discussion after what he calls "a string of incidents" involving NHS and council staff who were disciplined for offering to pray for people or saying "God bless" to them.

Mr Brazier said: "As a nation we have a deserved reputation for religious tolerance and have become home to many diverse religious groups. But in our bid to prove a religiously tolerant country, I believe we are going too far the other way."

Stemming the tide

A MULTI-million pound flood defence scheme in Dymchurch will enter its second stage this week.

The Environment Agency is spending £60 million on the project, which will continue until summer 2011 and protect nearly 2,500 homes. On Tuesday, the first of more than 1,700 large pre-cast concrete sea defences will be winched into place.

F1 star Lewis to tee up at celebrity golf event

FORMULA One champion Lewis Hamilton is returning to Kent this week to take part in a Pro-Am tournament at the London Golf Club.

The prestigious course is near Brands Hatch, so should suit the fast pace of Hamilton, who cut his racing teeth at the Buckmore Park karting track near Chatham.

He will be watched by a host of other celebrities, including Four Weddings star Hugh Grant.

A spokesman for the club said: "We are delighted Lewis was able to break away from his hectic schedule to take part in this competition.

"He is a big name and we hope to be able to confirm some more closer to the date.

"These things are difficult to organise so there was plenty of fingers crossed.

"We still don't know who Lewis will be partnering – that will be sorted out on the day, we just hope they will be able to keep up with him.

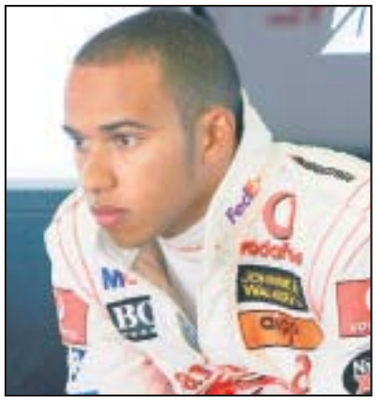
"And Hugh Grant will be coming along to do some spectating, but won't actually be playing.

"Golfer wise, we have a fantastic field of European talent like John Daly.

"It should be really good."

Also taking part in the Pro-Am will be Sidcup's Steve Backley, the club president and top javelin star who took two silver and a bronze medal at three separate Olympics.

There will also be Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman who is a club member and runs a dance club in Dartford.



RACING STRIPES: Lewis Hamilton will be appearing in the Pro-Am game this week

The Pro-Am is on Wednesday and is then followed by the European Open run from Thursday to Sunday.

Brit Ross Fisher will try to become only the second player to win twice in a row.

Previously, that was done by fellow Briton Lee Westwood.

Fisher won by seven strokes last year.

SHOWCASE: BBC's Kaddy Lee-Preston (right) will be signing first day covers of the Royal Mail's new collection of stamps which feature two wild flowers that can be found in Kent

Royal Mail's spotlight on endangered county flora

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
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RARE wild plants that can be found in the Kent countryside are featured on a new set of Royal Mail stamps.

And a limited edition first day cover of the 10-stamp collection, which shows intricately drawn examples of endangered flowers and foliage, is available with proceeds going to the Kent Wildlife Trust.

Royal Mail said the set has been produced to highlight the threat to our native flora and feature 10 of the 450 species of endangered wild plants currently facing national extinction due a loss of habitat and the growing use of herbicides.

One of the plants that can be found in the county is the Deptford Pink (Dian thus armeria) and the largest colony of the species can be found in Farningham Woods, near Sevenoaks.

Ray Lewis, a spokesman for the Kent Wildlife Trust, said: "This exquisite plant – similar to its garden relative, Sweet William – is rare and declining faster than almost any other British plant.

"Once widespread, by 1970 it was reduced to 34 known sites and this figure was down to 15 sites by 1998."

He said the disappearance of the Deptford Pink was due to loss of pasture and the destruction of hedgerows.

The remaining colonies are mainly in the South East and it can also be seen at the trust's nature reserve at Sandwich and Pegwell Bay.

Dwarf Milkwort (Polygala amarella), which is also known as Kentish Milkwort, is the other plant to feature on the stamps that can be found in the county.

Mr Lewis said: "This perennial herb is found in widely separated centres of distribution – the chalk grasslands of the North Downs in Kent and the limestone grasslands of Yorkshire, but has declined in recent years, particularly in Kent.

"It is said to have qualities that will increase the milk yield in both cattle and nursing mothers and herbalists have used it in the past to treat respiratory ailments."

Conservation

Royal Mail said that in 1986, there was a large population of more than 300 milkwort plants at the edge of Blackbush Shaw, near Cudham, Bromley, but there have been no recorded plants there since 1998 because of the use herbicides at the site.

The set is also accompanied by a special four-stamp 'miniature sheet', which celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

A spokeswoman for Royal Mail said: "For the plants stamps we worked closely with experts from conservation groups, the Royal Botanic Gardens and the Natural History Museum to select the 10 endangered plants, which despite their threatened status, do represent a degree of recent conservation success."

A limited number of the first day cover editions in aid of Kent Wildlife Trust have been signed by BBC South East presenter Kaddy Lee-Preston.

It has been created by award-winning designer Cathy Buckingham at Folkestone-based Buckingham Covers.

Other plants to feature in the collection include round-headed leek, lady's slipper orchid and floating water plantain.

The Kaddy-signed set costs £22.95 and the unsigned set is priced £10.95 and can be ordered at www.buckinghamcovers.com/kent with 30 per cent of the proceeds going to support the conservation work of the trust.

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This weeks
Homes and Gardens
starts on page 47
KENT ON SATURDAY KENT ON SUNDAY

You never have to be without KoS

County's favourite newspaper announces plans to increase availability of Kent on Sunday

FROM next weekend, KOS Media – publisher of this newspaper – is improving the distribution of Kent on Sunday.

The move is designed to ensure both this paper – and our sister title Kent on Saturday – are more widely available to everyone right across the weekend via newsagents and supermarkets.

New paid-for editions will be available to buy in these shops and to celebrate this event we are giving readers of Kent on Sunday the chance to win £300 to spend at the new Range homeware store at the Dockside Outlet in Chatham.

There will also be a special buy-one-get-one-free offer on admission to the Hop Farm.

Next weekend, readers of Kent on Sunday and our Saturday paper will also have the chance to receive £100 of food shopping vouchers after they use our foodforkent.co.uk fresh local produce service for the first time.

Full details of this fantastic promotion will be available in the newspaper next week.

The traditional free copies of Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday will be distributed via targeted home delivery rounds.

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Paul Stannard, managing director of KOS Media, explained: "We have never been able to satisfy the thirst for hard copies of both papers.

"That's why we launched our e-editions. Now we're printing more paid-for editions so we can truly satisfy the demand from the public.

"You can now enquire at your newsagent about having Kent on Saturday and Sunday home delivered with your national newspapers at the weekend or register your interest with us direct at www.kentnews.co.uk/homedelivery.

"All these improvements make the bigger and better Kent on Sunday – and Kent on Saturday – more available and accessible than ever before."

Richard Purvis, marketing director, added: "We are delighted to be giving our readers some fantastic offers each and every week in both our weekend papers. This makes an already incredible package even better thanks to the good newsagents that are driving these new initiatives forward."

RISING TIMES: Increased accessibility will enable more people to enjoy our great read

Museum is set to reopen

RAMSGATE Maritime Museum will reopen following an agreement to secure its future.

Negotiations between Thanet District Council and Preston Steam Trust have finally resulted in plans for the museum to open in the summer. It will also be taken off the council's controversial asset management list which saw dozens of properties placed up for sale by the district authority.

Funding of the East Kent Maritime Trust, which ran the museum, was cut by the council, throwing its future into doubt.

Grand plans for High St

MAIDSTONE'S new High Street will be pedestrian-friendly with al fresco restaurants and colourful new lighting.

Maidstone Borough Council's cabinet has chosen Letts Wheeler Architects as the winner of the £4 million budget for the High Street design competition.

The Nottingham-based architect company designed a winning image of how it could improve and renew the tired High Street. The winning design won the judges' vote through its "clutter-free, simple, homogenous approach".

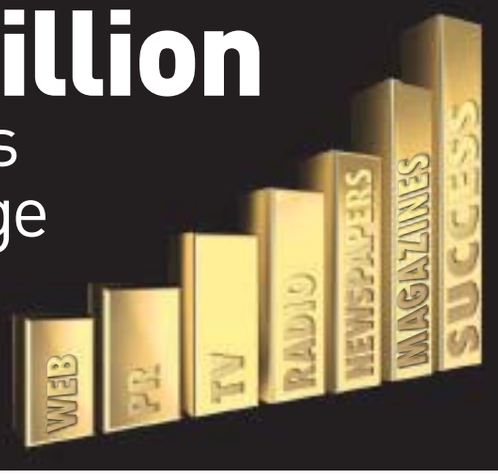
Fire destroys warehouse

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze that ripped through a disused warehouse on Thursday night.

More than 50 crewmen with six fire engines and two height-vehicles were called to the former cold store in Dunton Green, near Sevenoaks, at about 6pm.

The operation was scaled down significantly on Friday morning, although four crews were still at the scene damping down hot spots. Nobody was trapped or hurt in the fire, the cause of which is currently unknown.

80 finalists on shortlist to win in our £1 Million Business Challenge 2009



KOS media
Award Winning Company

KOS Media managing director Paul Stannard explains the aims of the £1 million business challenge. Search 'business challenge' @ yourkenttv.co.uk

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A UNIQUE bank and a blender on a bike are among the ventures shortlisted in KOS Media's largest competition ever with more than £1 million worth of advertising, marketing and PR up for grabs.

As a response to the global economic crisis the award-winning publisher launched the Kent Business Challenge 2009 in November last year, with the highest prize fund ever offered in the county.

More than 300 entries from a diverse range of Kent companies and organisations applied and 80 hopefuls have now been selected for the 10 awards.

Paul Stannard, KOS Media's managing director, said: "We have been overwhelmed by the sheer number and quality of the applications. It shows that in these difficult times people are out there innovating and growing their businesses as well as offering great service and value."

He said the media group's judges were so impressed by the diversity, quality and effort put into the applications that every entry short-listed would walk away with a proportion of the marketing prize fund.

Mr Stannard added: "It is great for us to give business awards that are not just a plaque on the wall, but something that is tangible in the form of marketing with our £1m advertising challenge."

The competition was launched to show the media can play a positive role as businesses of all sizes struggle in the recession.

The winner of each category will share more than £1m in advertising, marketing and PR across newspapers, websites, TV, radio and magazines.

Quirky

Among the shortlisted entries is a world first based in Tonbridge. Charity Bank is the country's only regulated bank that is also a registered charity.

The unique bank uses 100 per cent of its depositors' savings to support charities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

Malcolm Hayday, the bank's chief executive, was thrilled to have been shortlisted.

He said: "The advertising would mean a hell of a lot to us. The interesting thing for us is that we are seeing our business growing in the recession.

"More investors are discontented with the main banks and are searching out organisations like us, and charities are also looking to borrow more money at the moment.

"The more people who know about us the more good we can do."

David Pybus, who describes himself as a 21st century alchemist, teamed up with TV business gurus Theo Paphitis and Peter Jones, after surviving BBC Two's popular Dragon's Den programme.

Now, his company Scents of Time, which recreates perfumes from history, has been short-listed for the business challenge.

Another innovative and quirky enterprise is Move 'n' Smooth, which aims to encourage young people to eat or drink their five portions of fruit and veg a day. The company's slogan 'pedal your way to five a day', healthy eating message and impressive 'blender bike' contraption impressed the judges.

Kent on Sunday will be revealing more about the shortlisted entries in the coming weeks.

INTO THE NEXT ROUND

- ADM Computing
- Asbestos First
- Aspinall Foundation
- Basepoint
- Bedgebury Pinetum
- Bell Hotel Sandwich
- Billion$world.com
- Booby Buddies
- Caldecott Foundation
- Charity Bank
- Chatham Dockyard
- CPRE
- Creek Creative
- D&D Autos
- Dyslexia Action
- Ecorium
- Education Sense
- Employ a Woman
- Family Matters
- Frozen Interactive Ltd
- Fulston Manor School
- Gerrard White
- Gulbenkian Theatre
- Heading up the Aisle
- Heart of Kent Hospice
- Herne Bay Mobility
- House Martins
- Howletts & Port Lympne
- IM Insurance Manager
- Kent and Medway Biological Records Centre
- Kent Farmline
- Kent Tradesmen.com
- Kent Trainers
- Kent Youth Theatre
- Jali
- Macknade Fine Foods
- Marlowe Innovation Centre
- Mediterranean Direct
- Medway Regeneration
- Mencap
- Move 'n' Smooth
- NBC Bird and Pest Solutions
- Odyl Design
- Play Bay
- Porchlight
- Royal British Legion Ramsgate
- RSPCA Thanet
- Sarah Thorne
- Scents of Time
- Secret Gardens of Sandwich
- South East Coachworks
- Talk About Kids
- Text Qube
- Theatre Royal
- Torwood House B&B
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PEDAL POWER: The bike blender

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Victory for Gurkhas

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

MEMBERS of the Gurkha Justice Campaign have bowed out in a blaze of glory after securing a momentous victory for the brave Nepalese soldiers.

Organiser Peter Carroll told Kent on Sunday the Government's decision to allow all retired Gurkhas to live in the UK was "mission accomplished" and signalled the end of their highly-successful campaign.

Mr Carroll – the Lib Dem Parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and the Weald – celebrated with Joanna Lumley and more than 100 former soldiers following Home Secretary Jacqui Smith's announcement on Thursday.

He said: "Downing Street laid on a garden party for us and the moment I saw that image of the Prime Minister shaking hands with so many grateful Gurkhas, I knew we had won.

"I must have knocked on that famous black door seven or eight times to hand over petitions or war medals, but I was let inside for the first time on Thursday and it was unreal.

"You could see the joy in the eyes and on the faces of these loyal soldiers and it was a day I'll never forget. The campaign is finally over – job done, mission accomplished."

The foundations of the Gurkha Justice Campaign were laid in 2004 when Mr Carroll, also a Shepway councillor, was approached by four veterans facing deportation. Back then no former Gurkhas had a legal right to live in the UK, but within three years the Government had introduced a new policy that allowed those who retired after 1997 to settle here.

This still left older veterans out in the cold until this week's announcement, which many have put down to the determination of Lumley, Mr Carroll and the campaign.

Mr Carroll said: "When you consider that this all started with me looking at four Gurkha soldiers in my conservatory, and wondering how on Earth I was going to help them, it's amazing how far we've come.

"My dad was in the Army and always talked about the Gurkhas in the highest possible terms, so when they came and asked me for help there was no way I could refuse. Once I got to know them, I couldn't stop."

As campaign members celebrated in front of the television cameras, they were joined by Anne Widdecombe – ironically the MP Mr Carroll would like to replace when she steps down at the next general election.

She said of the announcement: "I'm delighted but we should never have had to force the Government to do it. It should have been done with good will a long time ago."

Earlier this month the Government lost its first opposition day debate since 1997 when 27 rebel MPs, including Medway's Bob Marshall-Andrews, sided with the Lib Dem and Conservative view that its immigration policy for retired Gurkhas was unacceptable.

Dover and Deal MP Gwyn Prosser came under fire that day for sticking with Labour, despite his position on the all-party Parliamentary group on Gurkha rights. He said his actions were down to negotiations that took place half-an-hour before the vote.

Following this latest announcement, Mr Prosser said: "I am delighted to hear the good news about the Gurkhas."

Years spent fighting for justice

October 2004 Gurkhas who served in the British Army for at least four years and retired after 1997 are given permission to live in the UK. Those who retired before 1997 are told they must prove they have strong ties here or face deportation.

March 2008 Hundreds of retired Gurkhas travel to Westminster to demand equal rights with British soldiers. Lib Dem leader Nick Clegg speaks on their behalf in the House of Commons.

September 2008 High Court judges rule the Government's immigration policy for Gurkhas is unlawful and orders the Home Office to come up with new rules within three months.

November 2008 Joanna Lumley and more than 100 retired Gurkhas march to Downing Street with a petition signed by about 240,000 people.

January 2009 The Gurkha Justice Campaign demands action from the Government, which breaks the three-month limit for a new policy ordered by the High Court.

March 17, 2009 Lawyers representing the retired Gurkhas lodge an injunction with the High Court, asking for the Government to be forced into unveiling its new policy as soon as possible.

April 24, 2009 A new immigration policy for Gurkhas is described as "despicable" by Joanna Lumley, due to a complex series of conditions that would benefit only a small number of the soldiers.

April 29, 2009 Labour loses an historic debate on the issue in the House of Commons when rebel Labour MPs side with the Tories and Lib Dems.

May 21, 2009 Victory at last for the Gurkhas when Home Secretary Jacqui Smith announces that all retired soldiers with at least four years' service can live in the UK.

After five years in the hot seat, chief constable outlines future plans for Kent Police

Force to be reckoned with

COMMITTED: Mike Fuller says he aims to make Kent Police a top performing force

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

IN HIS fifth year as Chief Constable, Mike Fuller has assessed the challenges facing Kent Police, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

From next year, public confidence in police will be used as the primary marker for measuring forces' performance for the first time,. This could be a particular test in a county where low crime rates are coupled with high levels of fear.

In terms of serious organised crime, Mr Fuller was able to talk about recent successes, including the 27 people arrested for ram-raids against ATM machines, a crime that has been a prevalent in Kent.

There have also been recent convictions for importing drugs into the county.

But the chief constable also took the opportunity to renew his commitment to making Kent among the top performing police forces in the country.

"My aim is to give the people in Kent a good police service and I want the people of Kent to be proud of their police force," he told Kent on Sunday.

"I am working to ensure that we are a top performing force, not just middle of the road in terms of performance.

"Not all officers like that because they have to be more accountable and not everyone agrees with that and it has not made me popular, but that is what I aim to do.

"There are lots of staff who do good things and are very committed and really, I never fail to be impressed by the work that people do in Kent."

Fight to beat 'slave trade'

KENT is the country's biggest gateway to Europe and the county constabulary faces major challenges from illegal immigration and human trafficking.

The Home Affairs Select Committee reported the findings of its year-long investigation into human trafficking last week, saying the country was seeing a "resurgence of a type of slave trade".

Kent Police were among five forces in the country that were highlighted as displaying best practice in tackling the devastating trade in human misery.

The committee is set to visit the county to witness the force's work against trafficking first hand.

Mr Fuller said: "I can say categorically that the traffickers are using increasingly horrendous methods to smuggle people into the county.

"On the other side of the Channel a French tanker driver was about to fill it up with sulphuric acid when he noticed one of the tanks was loose. He found a handful clandestines [the French term for illegal immigrants] in the lorry and then he looked in the other tank and there was another handful, about 12 in all.

"Traffickers are using increasingly dangerous methods to get through because detection rates have increased."

He also talked about the problem of trafficked children going missing and running away from Kent County Council care.

Figures show that out of the 474 children taken into care in the county between April and December last year, 86 of them disappeared, making them vulnerable to sexual and economic exploitation.

Mr Fuller said the force worked closely with police across the Channel and the UK Borders Agency.

The force aims to catch the masterminds behind the trade and support their victims.

Operation Pentameter II, which was carried out last year, saw 50 people arrested for immigration offences and 26 potential victims rescued.

Bridging gaps to help make children safer

AFTER the tragic killing of Baby Peter, a greater focus has been put on child protection across public services.

Failures and gaps in the system led to the death of the 17-month-old who suffered horrendous abuse that was missed by police, doctors and social workers in Haringey, north London.

In Kent, Mr Fuller said the force was working closely with Kent County Council.

"We are looking at the possibility of joined-up training between police and social workers," he said. "This relationship is very important if children are going to be properly protected.

"Often people point to more training but relationships are vital because if they are not there, there is a greater chance of mistakes being made or things being missed."

The force is also piloting a scheme to prevent perpetrators of domestic violence re-offending.

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARACs) are held to identify the likelihood of a domestic abuser reoffending, and Mr Fuller said officers would use all powers available to them to prevent further violence.

"It is significant because in south Wales where the whole idea originated it has been very successful in reducing the murder rate," he said.

"Fifty per cent of murders are domestic and we would hope to see a dramatic reduction as this becomes established."

The county sees an average of eight murders a year, and because victims of domestic violence are mainly women they make up the majority of deaths.

Yard job is 'personal'

THE chief constable refused to discuss reports that he has applied for the post of Deputy Director at Scotland Yard.

It comes after he recently applied for the role of Commissioner after the controversial resignation of Sir Ian Blair as head of the Metropolitan Police.

Mr Fuller, 50, said: "It is very personal and not something I'm prepared to discuss."

The county's top police officer is also said to have applied to be chief constable of British Transport Police.

Asked whether he is currently seeking to progress his career, he said: "I am very happy where I am and I enjoy the challenge. I have two years of contract left and at some point I will have to move on."

Mr Fuller, who has more than 30 years' policing experience, began his career in the Met where, among his many high-profile roles, he set up Operation Trident to tackle gun crime in black communities in the capital.

He said: "I have a track record of reducing crime wherever I've worked, including difficult areas of London.

"I have continued that track record in Kent, reducing crime and reducing disorder. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of doing that and I know I won't be able to do that forever.

"Whilst I'm here I want to see the force become a top performer and the public get a really good force, that is where I get my job satisfaction and I do feel a great sense of job satisfaction."

In answer to those who have criticised him over target-driven policing, he said: "I've got to measure that to prove to you and the people of Kent and Medway that we are genuinely improving the service."

He also admitted the force did make mistakes, adding: "I know we do not always get it right. The policing of Climate Camp is being reviewed.

"Our objectives were successful and where there are areas we can improve there is a commitment from me to improve on that."

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Graduating on to the catwalk

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE Vivienne Westwoods and Paul Smiths of the future are busy refining their collections as they prepare to take part in Graduate Fashion Week.

The five-day event is a unique opportunity for young British designers to showcase their talent and get 'spotted' by the international fashion industry.

Renowned British designer Jeff Banks, co-founder of GWF, told Kent on Sunday: "I'm always excited ahead of the shows and I can't believe it's in its 18th year. It is amazing that a little idea years ago has really become almost a cornerstone of the fashion curriculum.

"It is taken really seriously by the students. Graduate Fashion Week is important because it is so public.

"It really is something that gives you the real first taste of internationalism as a designer, and that's part of the learning curve to know what it is like to have their work under the microscope and face plaudits and criticisms."

DESIGNS: UCA student Ryan Drake has a collection ready to show in Graduate Fashion Week

IN STYLE: Designer Jeff Banks

More than 1,000 of the best BA degree fashion students from 50 universities around the UK take part in the annual event, which is held at Earls Court in London.

International fashion journalists and scouts for all the top designers such as Donna Karen and Moschino attend the catwalk shows ready to make careers and sign up the freshest new talent.

One of the bright young things hoping to break into the fashion industry is menswear designer Ryan Drake.

The 21-year-old is set to graduate from the University of the Creative Arts in Rochester and is one of only 19 designers from his class of 64 chosen to showcase their work at fashion week.

"Graduate Fashion Week is massively important for me," he said.

"I would not have settled for anything less. This year it was always my aim to get into Fashion Week as soon as I knew about it and for the internal show I pulled out all the stops to get here.

"I don't know what I would have done if not. It is an amazing opportunity with a lot of press there."

Mr Drake, who lives in Westwell, near Ashford, drew inspiration for his collection from a tragic event – the death of his father from a brain tumour last summer.

The remarkably driven young designer said: "After seeing him having to battle with cancer for four months it kind of got me thinking about how the brain is our protector.

"The body constantly is trying to battle any intruders from illnesses… It went on from there, becoming a lot more subtle in the styling and more about the brain being our knight in shining armour."

He is now hoping that his eight-piece collection, complete with luxurious manbags, will impress the international fashion pack.

Last year, Kent student Jessica Au from Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication in Chislehurst won the coveted £20,000 River Island Gold Award.

This year 20 young designers from from the college's 43-strong course are taking part in the show.

Banks, a former presenter of BBC's The Clothes Show, said: "The week launches so many new names in front of the industry and they can see the up-and-coming talent.

"They can see for themselves any job offers they want to make so it is really critical for young designers."

He said the week was founded to give young people at colleges and universities outside of London the chance to show their collections to an international industry audience.

Among the fashion graduates to show in the early days was Stella McCartney, who two years later went on to become chief designer at Paris fashion house Chloé.

Mr Banks started his career by opening a small boutique, Clobber, in Blackheath, London, in 1964 and had his clothes made by a woman from Dartford, who also used to work for 1960s icon Mary Quant.

• ***GFW runs from June 7-11. For more information and tickets visit www.gfw.org.uk.***

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Lifeboat backer angling for funds

A FISHING fan is setting off on the journey of a lifetime to raise money for the RNLI.

Nick Power, 29, from Sutton, near Dover, is holding a series of sea-fishing tournaments on his south coast route and stopping at 44 lifeboat stations, including Dover, along the way.

He has already set off from Scilly and hopes to be in Dover on Friday, May 29, where one of the sponsored fishing competitions will be held.

He said: "I am a huge supporter of the RNLI and because they are a charity which relies on donations, I wanted to contribute.

"I know a few anglers who have been rescued by the RNLI, so I am aware of the fantastic work the volunteer crews do to help others."

To sign up for one of the sea-angling matches visit www.justgiving.com/nickpowerrnli.

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'Neighbour from hell' moves out after years of disruption

Relief as unique civil case shuts rowdy flat

A COURT has ordered a council flat to be boarded up and left empty for three months after a noisy tenant ruined a quiet street.

By **MIKE BENNETT**
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It is the first time Kent Police have used civil law to end noise nuisance – and officers have warned they will do it again.

Tenant Kerri Sims, 24, invited groups of teenagers to the flat to drink and party and neighbours became so upset they asked the police to help. After hearing of the late-night drunkeness and music that went on into the early hours almost every night, Ashford magistrates backed a police request to order the house be emptied.

The court order against Ms Simms in the flat in Priory Way, Tenterden, is the first time the law has been used in the county.

The case was heard by Ashford magistrates on Wednesday under the Antisocial Behaviour Act when the court agreed the flat could be locked and the doors and windows sealed for three months.

Any person entering the flat during that time will be committing a criminal offence.

Ms Sims appeared briefly at the hearing to state she had moved out and would not be returning.

She said: "I know the order is going through and I am happy for it to go ahead. I want to move on and get my life in order."

With that she left the court. Magistrates agreed to proceed without her.

Residents in Tenterden had asked police to deal with long-running problems and the action was supported by the borough council. Neighbours told the court how their lives had been disrupted by visitors to the flat.

Foul-mouthed

They told of groups of rowdy young people regularly visiting the flat and causing nuisance as they came and went, often in the early hours.

Richard Brind said: "The stress has affected my health. Often there were unusual smells coming up to my flat, and the stench of alcohol."

Neighbour Sammi Law said rubbish was left everywhere with drinking, smoking and loud music causing problems most nights.

Gillian McKenzie said they had endured problems for three years with late-night visitors to the flat.

She said: "They are usually drunk or under the influence of something, and always loud and foul-mouthed and falling over in the early hours."

Ian Lockyer said the noise was often continuing when he left for work at 3.15am. He added: "I think she invites groups in as she doesn't like to be alone. There is banging of doors, loud voices and music. There is fighting in the car park and general abuse, smashed bottles and cans, and kitchen knives have been found. It is affecting our quality of life."

After the hearing PC Steve Gamble said: "Ashford Community Safety Unit has worked hard with Ashford council and officers to gather evidence and prepare this case.

"This is a useful piece of legislation in combating antisocial behaviour. This case should send a strong message to others who are responsible for such behaviour."

Sgt Rachel McNeil, of the Tenterden neighbourhood team, said: "The house in Priory Way has been the most problematic address in the area, accounting for antisocial behaviour such as underage drinking, loud music and excessive noise and littering.

"Kent Police will not tolerate behaviour which destroys the quality of life of others."

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Coast wide open to terror attack, claims Tory MP

By STEVE KNIGHT
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

TERRORISTS pose an "absolutely huge threat" to the people of Kent, an influential Tory MP has warned.

Gravesham representative Adam Holloway made the claim after the House of Commons' defence committee, of which he is a member, criticised the Ministry of Defence for leaving the UK coastline vulnerable to attack.

The committee said that because no single body was responsible for protecting it, the available defences for maritime security tended to be reactive, rather than proactive, forces.

WARNING: Adam Holloway MP

News of the concern came just a day before a report into the July 7 London bombings was published, revealing that severe shortages in MI5 personnel led to possible terror suspects not being investigated.

Mr Holloway, who fought in the Gulf War with the Grenadier Guards, told Kent on Sunday that counter-terrorism was of the utmost importance.

He said: "Some of my constituents think I'm obsessed with the war on terror and with Iraq and Afghanistan, but to me it's one of the biggest issues affecting them.

"Since [the World Trade Centre attack] this country has gained a growing number of enemies and there are hundreds of people in the UK who have received training at terror camps. They would like nothing more than to cause mass casualties and they don't care how many people they could kill.

"Thousands of my constituents work in London, go shopping at Bluewater and travel across the Channel, so it's a big issue for me. I think the threat of terrorism against us all is absolutely huge."

Last week the defence committee expressed concern at the small number of vessels dedicated to maritime security, and also at the arrangements for co-ordinating the forces.

Just nine Royal Navy ships along with a collection of 130 police and coastguard boats are given the task of guarding a shoreline that is more than 7,000 miles long.

Kent has one of the longest and most varied coastlines in the country, with more than one third of its residents living in coastal districts.

Mr Holloway said: "I was listening to the evidence in the defence committee meeting and I just couldn't believe there was not one single body responsible for protecting the shoreline.

"In the absurdly unlikely event that I became the Secretary of State for Defence and I received intelligence of a seaborne attack, where would I go? To the coastguard or the police? The Navy? The RNLI?

"We have all these different organisations with different information and responsibilities, but it all seems utterly disjointed."

The Conservatives say November's attack on Mumbai in India – during which gunmen arriving by boat killed more than 170 people – could be replicated here and have called for a review of the UK's defensive capability.

But an MoD spokesman said: "We welcome the publication of this report and its recognition of the unique contribution the Armed Forces make to national security.

"The recommendations are broadly in line with work already under way by the MoD. The Government will provide a full response to the committee in the coming weeks.

"The assertion that no-one is in charge of maritime security is a massive oversimplification. Maritime security has many elements. For example, the MoD is responsible for protecting our waters against any overseas threat, while the Home Office would be responsible in the face of a terrorist attack.

"We do not believe there is likely to be an emergency situation where a Government department misunderstands what the military could deliver."

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Axe gang jailed after PO robbery

THREE axe robbers have been jailed for four years after making off with more than £1,000 from High Halstow post office.

Darren James, 23, of Cazeneuve Street, Rochester, Martin Price, 27, of Castle Road, Chatham, and Jason Swallow, 23, of Gravel Walk, Rochester, were sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court.

They all pleaded guilty to robbery.

The court heard that the trio entered the Post office in Christmas Lane on October 27, 2008, and threatened staff with a small axe.

They made off with more than £1,000 in cash but were arrested near the scene.

James also asked for two further robberies to be taken into account – attacks on JS Mini Mart, Allhallows, and Fourwents store, Hoo, both on October 24, 2008.

Det Con Chris Watson said: "These men had no regard for other members of the public."

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Mum's plea to minister over her son's attackers

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

THE family of a talented footballer beaten close to death by a gang of thugs have taken their fight for justice to Parliament.

Rob Hughes, 28, was due to sign for Bromley FC upon his return from a holiday in Crete last summer but was punched and kicked into a coma before he had the chance.

Doctors initially told his family he had only 48 hours to live, but Rob has since made a remarkable recovery and returned home to Croydon, south London.

Greek police arrested five British men in connection with the attack, but they escaped without charge due to a legal loophole that says attacks in the country must be officially reported within 48 hours.

Last week Rob's mother, Maggie, met with Minister of State for Europe, Caroline Flint, to continue her fight for justice.

Interest

Mrs Hughes said: "She took a personal interest, and in a way it was just like one mum talking to another.

"When I first started this off I had no confidence and didn't really know what I was doing. All I knew was that I wasn't going to put up with what happened to my son.

"I had two aims at the beginning. One was to bring my son home alive and the second was to bring those people responsible to justice. We managed the first and I'm just as determined with the second.

"I'm very confident now and things are progressing well. Mrs Flint said she will make her ministers aware of the issue and I believe that with the right support, we can get justice for Robbie."

Rob was a member of Crystal Palace's youth academy in the days when current Bromley manager Mark Goldberg owned the club.

He later went on to play for teams including Oxford United and Sutton United, while at the same time coaching some of Bromley's younger stars – including current Dagenham and Redbridge midfielder Solomon Taiwo.

But Mrs Hughes said the brutal attack on her son had left him with "serious problems" including obsessive-compulsive disorder.

She said: "It's difficult as a family having to deal with things we don't understand. He won't pick up cups without using a tissue now and he gets upset when you don't do what he wants you to do.

APPEAL: Robert Evans and Caroline Flint meet Maggie Hughes (far right) and daughter Alaina, and (inset) Mrs Hughes with son Robert during his stay in hospital

"He's not the same person that makes me even more determined to get justice for him."

Mrs Hughes' meeting with Mrs Flint was arranged by London Euro MP Robert Evans.

He said: "This is a European matter of international importance. Greece is a European Union country and while Rob Hughes was on holiday he was the victim of a brutal and cowardly attack.

"We must make sure justice is done.

"This case has also highlighted the difficulties faced by victims in foreign countries, whether it's a case of violence, theft or just a bad accident.

"We must work together to improve support services for those who experience these kind of problems while abroad."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Iceland millions to be recovered, says county hall

KENT County Council has said it is confident of recovering around 90 per cent of the taxpayers' millions frozen in Iceland.

The authority released a statement earlier this week saying it was likely to recoup most of the £50 million tied up in the nation's crisis-hit banking system, but opponents say it is far from a foregone conclusion.

Of the cash tied up in Iceland, £32m is split between Glitnir and Landsbanki while £18m is being held by the UK-based Heritable Bank.

KCC will only receive 90 per cent of the first figure back if the banks' administrators continue to view it as a preferred creditor, something Kent Labour leader Cllr Mike Eddy said was not a certainty.

He said: "It is misleading for KCC to claim it is likely to get back 90 per cent of its Icelandic deposits.

"It may get 90 per cent back on £32m if priority creditor status is agreed. If that status is not agreed it is likely to get about 60 per cent back, or about £19m.

"And it won't all come in one go.

"Whatever we get back will be repaid between now and the end of 2012.

"Some have questioned whether it is morally right that local councils which have access to financial advisors should be priority customers ahead of individual small savers or charities.

"This is an especially interesting question as KCC has been judged to have been less than careful with some of its Icelandic deposits."

Finance chiefs calculated how much of the £50m they were likely to recover using guidance in a report issued to all local authorities by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA).

Misleading

Tory cabinet member for finance Cllr Nick Chard denied he was misleading Kent's taxpayers and said he could see no reason why the authority would not maintain its preferred creditor status.

He said: "This is not us saying it. This is CIPFA – the professional body that looks after public finance.

"They've looked into this issue very carefully and taken advice from creditors and a whole range of other people.

"What was misleading was for people to say that we had lost all the money or that we were only going to get five per cent back.

"I've known for quite some time that we would recover the majority of the money, but due to confidentiality agreements I have been unable to say anything until now.

"As things stand KCC is still a preferred creditor. There's an outside chance that could change, but there have been no challenges to that yet and there is no reason to suggest there will be, so we should get either 95 per cent or 100 per cent back.

"I've never seen this as a party political issue. I'm just trying to say what is factually correct at any one time."

Boy, 14, facing burglary trial

A TEENAGER has been charged with preying on homes in the village of Chart Sutton, near Maidstone.

The 14-year-old, from the village, was charged with a single count of burglary following an incident in Plough Wents Road, in Chart Sutton, on March 12.

The youngster was arrested on Thursday and while being charged he asked for 22 other offences to be taken into account.

The majority of the other burglaries also took place in his home village.

The teenager, who cannot be named due to his age, has been released on bail to appear at Maidstone Youth Court of June 1.

The tide is high

Agency calls on public to fight climate change in bid to stem rising sea levels

CLIMATE change has caused sea levels in north Kent to rise 10 inches since the early 19th century, a new report has found, ***writes Jenna Pudelek.***

The Environment Agency (EA) monitors rising sea levels across the South East based on figures from the coast at Sheerness, because records from the town on the Isle of Sheppey go back as far as 1834.

The organisation's State of the Environment Report for the South East found that despite this significant rise in sea levels and the strongest increase in temperatures in the country, the region has only increased its capacity to produce renewable energy by one per cent since 2007.

Harvey Bradshaw, the EA's southern region director, told Kent on Sunday: "Everybody has a part to play in this, it is not about someone else.

"We all need to decide whether to insulate our houses properly and to use water wisely and whether to water our garden.

Flooding

"These are personal choices made by thousands of people and will significantly impact on whether climate change is minimised or becomes a really big problem."

He said that in Kent the main risks from climate change are coastal flooding along the county's long seashore and the Thames Estuary, and drought.

"Certainly drought is going to affect Kent, which is one of the driest parts of the country and is comparable to the Middle East in terms of rainfall," he said.

The EA report said investment and support for renewable and low carbon energy projects were needed if the Government's target of 20.5 per cent of energy sourced from renewables was to be met by 2010.

Mr Bradshaw said the region had already seen a significant rise in sea levels, he said: "There are two things going on; movement of the land surface which has been going on for thousands of years and is taking the South East slightly lower, which is unhelpful.

"Also climate change – this is a thing which we can alter and adapt to, this is where the EA is saying it is important for people to play their part.

"We need to look the emissions of carbon we put into the atmosphere because all the science is telling us the carbon is having a significant impact in warming the earth up and melting the ice caps."

Meanwhile, the Government's South East Plan, which sets out targets for new homes in the South East, states that Kent and Medway will see nearly 140,000 new homes built by 2026.

Asked whether the ambitious plans put the region's delicate environment at even greater risk, Mr Bradshaw said: "We have been involved throughout the development of the Plan and we see it as a starting point to a continuing need to improve and protect the environment."

He said the water efficiency of the new homes to be built under the plan needed to be above current levels in the South East.

"Only through the incremental improvement can we make sure the countryside is protected," he said.

Concerns were raised in the report that the current financial crisis could mean less of a focus on the climate crisis.

Asked if developers might be more likely to take shortcuts rather than ensure new properties are more environmentally sustainable, Mr Bradshaw added: "There is always a risk but the regional assembly and development agency are working very closely with the EA.

"I think we are all shoulder to shoulder about the steps that are necessary to ensure we protect and enhance the environment.

"Everybody is alert to these risks."

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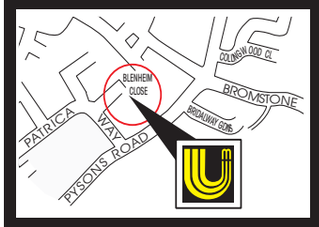

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Father Munish has taken photos of his two children every day of their lives

FIRST BORN: These photographs of Suman are from: May 26, 1996; May 8, 1998; Christmas Day, 2000; August 18, 2002; April 24, 2004; October 21, 2006; and April 30, 2009

TIMELINE: Pictures in this sequence of son Jay were taken on: December 1, 1998; May 7, 2000; October 28, 2002; August 27, 2004; July 2, 2006; and April 30, 2009

Picture of a dad's devotion

A DEVOTED father has made up for a lack of his own baby photographs by capturing a moment from every day of his children's lives on camera, ***writes Steve Knight***.

Munish Bansal, 36, from Gillingham, has amassed a huge collection of more than 8,500 images of his 13-year-old daughter Suman and her 10-year-old brother Jay.

The accounts assistant, who has uploaded all the photos to a personal website, says he always intended to take a picture a day – and he doesn't know when it would end.

"I just wanted to do something different," he said. "There aren't many photos of me when I was a baby; nor are there many of my wife Rita.

"So I thought it would be a nice way for us to remember what our children were like when they are older and to see how they have changed over the years.

"They love it and at the moment are happy for me to take their picture every day, but at some point they might want me to stop. It will be quite sad when that day comes, but I can't follow them around taking photos for ever."

PICTURE PERFECT: Suman and Jay Bansal

SNAP HAPPY: Munish and Rita Bansal with children Suman and Jay

Mr Bansal believes daughter Suman, who was born on May 16, 1996, is the oldest child in the world to have been photographed every day of her life. But he admits that on occasion it has been difficult to keep the sequence going.

Mr Bansal said: "There have been a few times when I've come home late from work and they were in bed just about to drop off, but they didn't mind even if they were a little sleepy.

"On the website I've dated every picture, so it's easy to see what they looked like every Christmas and birthday.

"I won't stop until they tell me to. Naturally the decision is theirs, but at the moment they enjoy the attention and like being photographed."

Meanwhile, Mr Bansal has also written a book – A Human Life: Dream or Reality? – which is available to download free at www.ahumanlife.com.

Included are suggestions of how people can do their bit to change the world for the better, as well as Mr Bansal's plans for a charity to fund hospitals, schools and other goodwill activities.

He said: "My aim is to see a smile on every face. Hopefully, by providing these resources, nobody will die because they didn't have enough money for medical treatment, nobody will go to sleep hungry and everyone will have access to education.

"I believe we could do that much – or at least we can try."

See all the pictures at http://earnyourname.net/SumanBansal and http://earnyourname.net/JayBansal.

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Development an extra jobs boost

MORE than 600 new jobs could be created after plans for a massive call centre were agreed by planners at Ashford Council.

Plans to build the 42,000 sq ft call centre at Repton Park were put forward by George Wimpey on behalf of AXA PPP Health Care Ltd, and will create more than 600 new jobs on Ashford's largest brownfield site.

The news provides another employment boost for the former Templer Barracks site following the announcement retail giant Waitrose will be opening a new superstore by the end of the year, creating an additional 150 jobs.

The AXA proposals include two new three-storey buildings with landscaping and the provision of 205 parking and 70 cycle spaces. Both main buildings will utilise solar panels to generate hot water and reuse rainwater for flushing toilets.

When the whole planned development is completed, Repton Park, which covers 50 hectares, will include 1,250 new homes and community facilities.

Jailers turn screw on Labour's MPs

PRISON officers angry at "broken promises" over privatisation plans will attempt to oust Labour MPs in marginal seats.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

The Prison Officers Association (POA) is asking its members to vote against the party at the next general election, which could spell disaster for several politicians in Kent.

Sittingbourne and Sheppey MP Derek Wyatt for instance – who holds a majority of just 79 – has three prisons in his constituency and could have a big fight on his hands come polling day.

The POA is angry the Government is to hand six jails over to the private sector and has sent out a message that it will try to derail Labour's election campaign by turning tens of thousands of its members against the party.

Kent union representative Pete McParlin said: "Labour have broken all their promises to us. They promised to restore trade union rights and said they were against privatisation, but they've gone back on their word.

"Our view at the moment is that a vote for Labour is a wasted vote because we want a government that is going to listen to us.

"Never has it been right for people to make money out of prisoners. If the family of a murdered person found out that somebody was making a profit from looking after their killer, they would be very angry.

"It's not right and it's not proper."

POA spokesman Glyn Travis added: "Throughout the UK we've identified a number of marginal seats where if the POA encourages its prison officers not to vote Labour, they would lose their seat. We can be persuasive and we can force change."

Kent is home to nine prisons – including the Sheppey cluster, Maidstone, Dover, Rochester and Canterbury – which employ a total of about 2,000 POA members. None of the county's prisons is in the privatisation scheme.

If all the officers followed the union's advice and voted against Labour at the next general election, it is possible their family members would do the same.

That could spell disaster for MPs such as Paul Clarke (Gillingham and Rainham) and Steve Ladyman (Thanet South), who have majorities of just 252 and 664 respectively, and Mr Wyatt.

Mr Wyatt said he was opposed to the privatisation of prisons but admitted that may not make a difference come polling day.

He said: "In 2005 we had just 10 days' notice that the three Sheppey prisons were going to be the first of these privatisation attempts and maybe that's why I only won by 79.

"Along with the POA I was able to stop the Government from doing so, and then we bid for the cluster and won.

"But I'm afraid it doesn't matter what work you do locally because all the voters care about is what happens nationally, so of course it's a concern to me.

"Prison officers are our fourth emergency service in some ways, but they often get a raw deal because they're hidden away.

"They want a fair crack at the whip and I don't think that's unreasonable."

• ***See p31 for news of the murderer who has won his battle to make taxpayers foot the bill for his haircuts.***

Agency a world class promoter

LOCATE in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency (IPA), has achieved the status of Best Regional Agency Worldwide in a profession benchmarking report, and second in the list of Overall World Leading and World Class Performances.

The agency also came second in the world for its enquiry and project-handling. A total of 40 IPAs, divided into three categories – countries, regions and cities from around the world, were involved in the programme.

The GDP Performance Benchmarking report is seen as the only large-scale, global assessment for the effective handling of foreign investment projects.

In fact, Locate in Kent was the only European agency in the top three overall World Class performers and in the top three World Leaders in Enquiry and Project Handling categories, coming second only to Invest Brisbane in both instances.

Paul Wookey, chief executive, said: "Locate in Kent will continue to work hard to grow investment in Kent."

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Death at the pier

A MAN hanged himself inside a lighthouse on the end of a pier in Dover, it emerged on Wednesday.

The as yet unnamed 35-year-old was found hanged in the 46ft-high lighthouse at the end of the Prince of Wales Pier.

An inquest was due to be opened this week.

The man, believed to be from the Rochdale area in Greater Manchester, was certified dead at the scene. Police are not treating his death as suspicious.

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Picture: ERIC SAWYER

Prepare for some Stirling motor racing

This weekend motor racing legend Sir Stirling Moss will get behind the wheel and again attempt to be the first to pass the chequered flag. Ahead of his appearance at Brands Hatch, CHRIS MURPHY spoke to one of motorsport's icons about his career and modern day Formula One cars

FORMER Grand Prix ace Stirling Moss will be taking to the race track again this weekend, at the age of 79.

The man who is famous for winning just about everything except for a world F1 title, is now a successful property developer. He finished second four times in a row between 1955 and 1958.

The racer turned to bricks and mortar after a near-fatal smash at Goodwood in 1962 and has now had a topless £672,000 Mercedes SLR speedster named after him. And you don't even get a windscreen.

But he will be back roaring around the Brands Hatch grand prix circuit once more as part of the Masters Festival.

Anyone over a certain age will be going weak at the knees at the sight of all those 50s, 60s and 70s sports and saloon cars on the world famous circuit that used to host the British Grand Prix. Both the Indy and GP layouts will be used.

Sir Stirling will be driving a 1956 Osca FS302 with a 1500cc engine alongside Roger Earl in the Gentleman's Drivers GT races on Bank Holiday Monday.

He raced from 1948-62 and saw the chequered flag in 194 of his 497 races.

That included 16 Formula One cups. It's claimed he competed in 84 different cars.

Picture: DAVID COOPER

ON THE ROAD: On Bank Holiday Monday Stirling Moss, centre picture, will drive a 1956 Osca; he is pictured top racing last year at Spa and opposite on the Nurburgring in 1961. Bottom right, Mercedes have named one of their SLR speedsters after him

Sir Stirling, who won the gruelling 1955 Mille Miglia in Italy, said: "I have had a lot of shunts in my time, so I am lucky to still be here. Drivers back then had a very short lifespan, and we could lose three or four a year. I am very lucky to still be here.

"I have taken part in so many types of racing. I have been so lucky – I have had a great life, and am still keen to go racing."

He said: "I am taking part in the Le Mans 24-Hour curtain raiser in another historic race using the full circuit, which is very fast indeed. Then I have another in Portugal, and of course at Brands Hatch, which I am looking forward to. I am kept very busy."

When asked if he still wants to win every race, Sir Stirling said: "You better believe it.

"I have no chance of winning overall as there are much faster cars taking part, but I will certainly have a good go at winning my class. Second place is no good, not if I can help it."

He agreed the cars are highly dangerous to drive at speed, with low tech components making it incredibly risky, but added: "I understand the cars of my era. I wouldn't want to drive a modern racing car on slicks or

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these modern gizmos on them. We have treads on our tyres and they have so much more character.

"They [modern cars] are not my style. They are not what I remember. The pleasure I had when racing was because it was dangerous, which is what attracts you when you are young.

"And more than that, the cars had a lot more character back then. The problem then was that we would lose two, three of four drivers a year. But I carried on, because that is what I did. I certainly hope I will see the end of the race on Monday. We will be there to do as well as we can, and to win our class.

"There will be about 30 cars in the field, which is impressive. There are about half a dozen races in the series and I will be taking part in as many as I can."

The cars may be worth a small fortune, but the drivers are not putting on a display – they want to win, and win well.

They may include vintage Maseratis and Cooper Climaxes, but Christopher Tate, the series director said: "This is real, serious racing. These cars were difficult to drive in their day when they were driven by top professionals and they are difficult to drive now. Drivers will be lapping on the pace."

Formula One classics from the 70s like McLaren, Lotus and Tyrrell will also line up on the grid.

A Brands spokesman said: "Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday will feature racing on the Grand Prix circuit from four decades of F1 machinery.

"Formula One cars of the 70s will compete in the Grand Prix Masters Series, including a host of famous marques raced by the likes of James Hunt, Emerson Fittipaldi and Jody Schekter. There will also be two special races from the Historic Grand Prix Cars Association for F1 cars from the 50s and 60s."

Among other celebs will be Travis drummer Neil Primrose making his historic racing debut in a 1971 Lola T210. He has already taken part in modern GT events.

For more about one of Britain's greatest racing aces, see www.sterlingmoss.com.

Raceday Gate Prices are £17 with a stand seat another £5.

Manhole covers stolen for scrap

POLICE are hunting a thief with a thick moustache who stole manhole covers from the roadside.

The brazen offender was seen taking two of the metal covers – presumably for their scrap value – from Faversham Road, Lenham, on Tuesday, May 12, between 3.40-4pm.

He is white, 5ft 8ins, well built with a thick moustache and wore dark trousers.

He drove a white Leyland Ford Transit with a metal cage attached and parked on a bend in the road.

Anyone with information can contact police on 01622 690055 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111.

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Kent Refugee Help appeals for more 'friends' to assist with crucial support work

A helping hand for K, victim of ethnic conflict in a faraway land

By **JENNA PUDELEK**
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

MILITIAMEN tore through the island village off the coast of Somalia raping, killing and burning.

A young fisherman returned later with his daily catch to find his entire family – his mother, sister, brother and father – had been brutally murdered.

Knowing his life was in danger he fled north and across the Red Sea to Yemen, where the 26-year-old boarded a plane to London's Heathrow airport.

Now, six years later, the asylum-seeker known as K remains unable to settle and find peace because although he has escaped the dangers of his war-torn homeland, he is trapped in the complexity and bureaucracy of the UK immigration system.

Scared

K was detained without charge at the Dover Immigration Removal Centre for 18 months and during that time he was supported by Kent Refugee Help (KRH).

Sue Powell, secretary of the charity which supports men at the centre by helping them access their legal rights and provides on-going assistance once they are released, said: "K is such an exceptional person.

"Despite all the appalling things that have happened to him there is no bitterness, just great strength and a want to do something."

The 32-year-old's ongoing battle to gain asylum has been prolonged because although he is from Somalia, which has suffered near constant conflict since the collapse of its government in 1991, he is part of the Bajuni tribe.

This seafaring ethnic minority live on the small islands off the coast of southern Somalia and speak a different language to their countrymen in the north.

K said: "I came [here] because they killed my father and my family

"I did not have any family and I was scared to live there because they tried to kill me too. It was because of our ethnicity and tribe."

His first attempt to claim asylum was refused. The UK authorities refused to believe he was from Somalia and between 2003 and 2005 K lived on the streets of London.

"I wanted to help myself," he said. "I did not want to do any crime or cause any problems."

But eventually, out of desperation, he decided to make another asylum claim under a different name – but his crime was discovered and he ended up in prison.

After he was released he was sent to Dover, where he did not know how long he would be forced to stay.

"I would like to say for everyone who is in the Government that asylum-seekers have a very hard time every day," he said.

"We have been through a lot and then we are put inside for too long.

"They try to make people do a crime and say, 'No, you cannot get out, you are a criminal'.

"We need to be safe and to work and have a life, but they make people angry and stressed and they may try to make false claim, like me."

He said that while detained at Dover he often felt suicidal and said the support KRH kept him going.

"My hope is to try to tell people to be patient," he said. "With prison you know in the end you are going to be freed. But with detention you don't know when you will be free."

Taxes

K was released last year and now lives in Glasgow, awaiting the outcome of his fight for asylum. He is lucky to have an immigration lawyer working on his case to the Home Office.

He added: "I want to get work and start a family. I don't have a family any more – they were all killed.

"But I want my own family, so I can tell them my story and how they got here.

"When I left my home it was really hard because I don't have the right to work here, like other people.

"It's hard because I'm healthy and young and I feel ashamed to go and get in the queue for [benefit] money, because it does not belong to me.

"I need to work so I can pay taxes to pay other people who can't work to live."

Mrs Powell said there were many men at Dover like K, who have no-one and desperately need support.

To find out more and become a friend of KRH, call Mrs Powell on 01233 812533.

News and sport updated daily
www.kentnews.co.uk

Flood barrier boost

HOUSEHOLDS and businesses on the flood plain of the Dartford and Crayford creeks are to benefit from a £5 million investment in the Dartford Creek barrier.

Built in 1981, the barrier sits at the mouth of Dartford Creek on the south bank of the Thames to tackle the risk of tidal flooding. The barrier will undergo a major two-year overhaul, starting next month.

Only one of the two flood barriers will be removed at any time, ensuring defences remain operational.

The works will include Environment Agency contractors replacing the massive lifting chains as well as renewing other equipment. A spokesman said: "We are working only for limited summer periods. If we do face an unlikely flood event during the works, we have plans in place with emergency services."

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By **CHRIS MURPHY**

Searchers looking out for volunteers

Dog owners called to aid vital rescue operations

TWO groups who use trained dogs to carry out searches for missing people are on the hunt for more volunteers to help them cover the county.

So far this year, they have already been involved in 19 searches, with 14 successes.

Sadly, two people were found dead, and three are still missing. So far, they have taken part in 738 hours of searches this year.

And that's why they need more people, with or without dogs, who can be used to help with these searches.

The group called Kent Search and Rescue, or KSAR, has Paul Lewis as its training officer.

He said: "Kent really is so large we need many more people willing to give up time to help with these searches.

"Many of those that go missing are elderly people who simply have wandered off, plus those who are contemplating suicide. A quick response is vital in these circumstances.

"We are currently mainly interested in recruiting volunteers from south and west Kent. But people from all over the county are welcome to contact us.

Call-outs

"We are obviously hoping to recruit members to train as dog handlers with their canine companion. But we need foot searchers too.

"We have also recently put together a mountain bike team and have the project of creating a canoe team to search riverbanks.

"So we are interested in men and women from all walks of life, whether they have an interest in dogs or not."

KSAR assists Kent Police in their search for vulnerable missing people. Since its creation in 1998, it has been involved in some 340 searches.

A second organisation called Search and Rescue Dog Association, or SARDA Meridian actually trains and deploys search and rescue dog teams, principally in Kent.

It was set up less than a year ago and has already taken part in more 15 searches in South East England. Their dogs are trained in air scenting, an efficient technique for searching large area quickly.

The highly-trained canines are also loved pets who live with their handlers. These unsung heroes are volunteers who give up their free time to answer call-outs at any time of the day or night, 365 days a year.

They are called into action by the police and other emergency organisations.

To ensure continuity in the service they provide at no charge to Kent authorities, both organisations need to recruit more members willing to give up their free time.

James Dunn, chairman of SARDA Meridian said: "I know there are many dogs out there who love using their nose.

"So if your dog is bored at home and you are after activities that will give you both a chance to get out and about, put your dog's energy to good use and allow you to give something back to the community at the same time. We want to hear from you."

Suitability

The groups said on average 1,800 people go missing in Kent every year. They do not all require a full call-out, but a high percentage can be classified as vulnerable and will need assistance. These include the elderly, those suffering from senile dementia, and children.

KSAR is a charity and regularly organises courses for new members. SARDA Meridian is also a charity and runs ability assessment to judge the suitability of dogs whose owners are interested in joining. In addition to the high standard of training the teams receive, they need equipment such as radios and first aid kits to provide an effective service.

For more information on how to join, visit www.sardameridian.co.uk and www.ksar.co.uk.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

KoS food campaign a 'brilliant idea' says MasterChef Wallace

MEAL DEAL: Gregg with competition winner Diane and mum Dorothy

BBC'S MasterChef presenter Gregg Wallace has made it his mission to put traditional family meals back on British tables.

This week the Kent native and BBC cooking competition presenter travelled across the country on a tour bus, stopping off at the homes of six competition winners to help them prepare their favourite recipes.

While en route to Bromley mum Diane

By **STEVE KNIGHT**
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Aslett's house on Monday, Wallace told Kent on Sunday he was keen to promote the importance of family meals.

He said: "Some of my happiest memories are of us all sitting round the table at my grandparents' house and I think it's something we are starting to lose sight of. When people talk about their favourite meals it's usually things like roast beef and lamb that come up and I think it comes from deep within the British psyche.

"It's quite possible that my enjoyment of family meals is what set me on my career path.

"Maybe that was the point when I started to associate food with happiness, so I might have ended up as a plumber or something if it wasn't for my nan's roast dinners."

According to the MeatMatters website – which provides nutritional information, recipes and facts about British meat – 33 per cent of people surveyed have never helped prepare a family meal. Furthermore, 29 per cent of 18 to 24-year-olds quizzed said they did not see the value of a family meal.

Wallace, from Whitstable, is a single father of two children – Tom, 15, and Libby, 12 – and said he felt it was important he sat down at the dinner table with them as often as possible.

He said: "There tend to be more broken homes these days and people are also a lot busier, but I think we should all make an effort to have family meals because it's nice to be able to talk to each other and keep each other up-to-date.

"I'm a realist – I'm a busy dad and I can't do it every day, but it's worth trying because everyone enjoys it."

Wallace, 44, began his career selling vegetables from a stand in Covent Garden, London, and is now a director of two successful fruit and veg firms.

Kent on Sunday's publisher KOS Media launched its foodforkent.co.uk campaign earlier this year, encouraging people to choose Kent-sourced products to support the county through the recession.

Wallace, who is known as Masterchef's ingredients expert on the popular BBC show, described it as a "lovely, brilliant idea".

He said: "There's some great produce here in Kent because there's a hell of a lot of green areas as well as a very big coastline.

"Realistically we can't always check out what local suppliers there are because we're often busy and need to shop quickly, but we should all do our bit to try and support local businesses more."

The winners of the MeatMatters competition will all have their recipes featured in a new family meals cookery booklet supported by Wallace.

Visit www.meatmatters.com for more information.

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

Man jailed for 19 break-ins

A SERIAL burglar who targeted 19 Medway homes during a three-month reign of terror has been jailed for four years.

Simon James Boswell, 27, of no fixed address, was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court after pleading guilty to a burglary in Glencoe Road, Chatham, and asked for a further 18 offences to be taken into consideration.

Boswell preyed on homes in the Luton area of Chatham and Darnley Road area of Strood – picking out those that had open windows or unsecure front and rear doors.

He was arrested in February after Medway police stepped up night patrols after a number of offences.

Det Con Tom Daveney said: "We have been successful in taking a prolific offender off of the streets of Medway.

"Repeat offenders such as Boswell can make people's life a misery and we are satisfied he will be spending a significant amount of time in prison. I would urge people to try to prevent themselves from becoming the victim of a burglary by making sure windows and doors are locked in the evenings."

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TV assault charge

A MAN has been charged with assault after an alleged bust-up on TV chat show Trisha.

Ian Wallace, of Lirkley Cliff, Lowestoft, Suffolk, has been charged with common assault after the incident at the Maidstone Studios in Vinters Park in February. It is alleged that Wallace, 24, attacked a fellow guest on the show, which was about love rivals.

He has been bailed and will appear at Maidstone Magistrates Court on Thursday, May 28.

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Hospice's album is good for your soul

By **CHRIS MURPHY**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FRIEND'S young son suffering from leukaemia has prompted an urban musician to launch an album featuring some of the best-known names on the underground music scene to raise money for a hospice.

Simon Tagg is better known as the musician Kouncilhouse.

The 35-year-old from Hartley, near Gravesend, said: "The boy was taken to the EllenorLions Hospice and was treated so well I wanted to do something in return.

"The lad, who was six when he was given an all-clear around five years ago, was given the home help series, which he enjoyed as much as you can in the circumstances.

"The staff were fantastic during this difficult time. This album is for them and the people they help."

The download-only compilation called It's Good for the Soul, contains 45 exclusive tracks by musicians from around the world and is available from June 1.

Kouncilhouse said: "There are some of the biggest names in breaks, electro, drum 'n' bass and dubstep, and is available in both DJ Friendly Unmixed and Special Edition Mixed, there's something for everyone.

"This album is without a doubt going to produce some of the biggest sounding tracks in 2009 from the underground music scene, while supporting children with cancer and other life-threatening and life-limiting conditions. EllenorLions need all the support they can get. They are not government-backed, so rely on all our generosity.

"Buying this album will help boost their funds, and get a wider audience for some great music."

EllenorLions Hospices is a registered charity, which provides all-encompassing hospice care for adults and children in Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley and the surrounding villages. It cares for around 2,500 patients and their families every year.

A spokesman for the hospice said: "We would like to send our sincere thanks to Kouncilhouse and all the groups and individuals who agreed to support EllenorLions Shining Lights Children's Hospice at Home by putting together this great compilation album, we are extremely grateful to everyone.

"We are always amazed by the tremendous support we receive at EllenorLions Hospices and we would to take the opportunity to thank everyone who downloads the album as they will be helping to raise vital funds for the children in our care and their families.

"The support and commitment from members of the public enables us to continue our vital work within the community and at our bedded hospice in Northfleet."

For more details see www.itsgoodforthesoul.com – to download the album go to www.trackitdown.net or see Kouncilhouse's own site, www.myspace.com/kouncilhouse.

To get in touch with EllenorLions call 01322 422830.

SOUL MUSIC: Kouncilhouse, above, has launched a compilation album to raise funds to support the EllenorLions Hospice

THIS photo of Shuart Lane near St Nicholas at Wade in Thanet was taken by 18-year-old Jacqui Browne who is a pupil at Clarendon House Grammar School.

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Celebrating the first century of Channel flight

ONE hundred years ago, Frenchman Louis Bleriot made a historic flight across the English Channel that changed the perception of air travel, ***writes Marijke Cox.***

The epic journey saw him fly 22 miles from La Barraques near Calais to the cliffs of Dover, where he crash-landed after 37 minutes in the air.

His flight showed the potential of the aeroplane and changed people's beliefs that Britain was isolated from Europe.

To celebrate the centenary of his achievement, a weekend of celebrations on July 25-26, called Dover 2009, has been organised by the town and district councils, the Community of the Agglomeration of Calais, Seeda, Cabe and events company Crestings Ltd.

Key events include a historic re-enactment of the famous flight by Swedish pilot Mikael Carlson in a Bleriot XI aeroplane, accompanied by three other pilots also in Bleriot XI planes, and an air race from Abbeville in France to Dover's Duke of York's Military School.

A fireworks spectacular is also being put on across the harbour by the organisers behind the Mayor of London's display on the Thames.

Bernard Butcher, chairman of Dover District Council, said the celebrations would be an amazing experience for the thousands of people expected to attend.

"It is an event that commemorates a momentous occasion in the past and by celebrating its centenary we are marking out the achievement of Louis Bleriot to future generations and keeping the story of his triumph alive," he said.

Events

The seafront will be transformed with British, Anglo-French and Anglo-Italian themed events and a programme of musical performances, including one from the Royal Air Force Halton Area Band.

A series of static and air displays of historic and vintage aeroplanes will be on show at Duke of York's school and the Red Arrows will perform a flypast.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Glenn Torpy, Chief of the Air Staff, said: "The RAF is delighted to be able to support this event, which marks a milestone in aviation history."

The event, which has taken 18 months to plan, is being sponsored by a number of companies including the Daily Mail and Shell Aviation, which fuelled the original Bleriot plane in 1909.

For more about Dover 2009 Bleriot celebrations, visit www.Dover2009.com.

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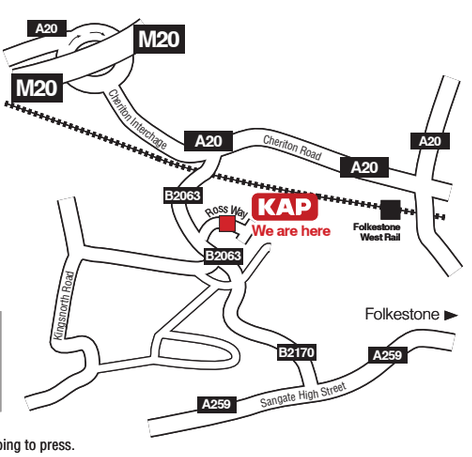

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Prisoners given jobs on Olympics site

A GROUP of prisoners from Kent have been selected to work on the 2012 Olympic complex.

The Prisons Service has confirmed a selection was made from interviewees sent from Blantyre House, near Maidstone.

The open prison grooms inmates for release, some of whom have served life terms for crimes including murder.

It has been reported they will be paid around the £7.50-an-hour mark, a massive rise on the £9.50 a week they are paid while behind bars.

And they will be thoroughly screened to ensure they can be trusted to do the job asked of them, said the Prisons Service.

Greg Clark, the Conservative MP for the area covering the prison, backed the plan and is full of praise for the way Blantyre reforms prisoners: "Blantyre House Prison has one of the best records in the country in moving prisoners permanently away from a life of crime.

"It does so by equipping them with useful skills and work experience.

"Anyone allowed out of prison to train for work must be rigorously assessed as suitable.

"Providing these safeguards are in place I do not think it is inappropriate for Blantyre House prisoners to work on the Olympics site."

Inmates were interviewed for the positions at Stratford, east London, where the Olympic village, which comes with a £800 million security bill, will rise from the brownfield sites. Those successful will be driven to and from work by minibus.

Shadow Olympic spokesman Hugh Robertson, the Faversham and Mid Kent Tory MP, was less keen: "Although people deserve a second chance, the whole thing just doesn't sound like a terribly good idea."

The scheme has received complete government backing.

A Prison Service spokesperson said: "Four prisoners have been accepted on a waste management training course. Prisoners may be released on temporary licence providing they meet strict criteria and pass a rigorous risk assessment. Release on temporary licence is used to prepare prisoners for their eventual release from custody.

"It helps reduce the chance or re-offending by setting up employment and rehabilitation work in the community... This is essential for resettlement and an important factor in protecting the public."

JOBS: Prisoners from Blantyre House near Maidstone will be employed to work on the high-security Olympic complex in east London

Murderer wins battle to claim free haircuts

A PRISONER who murdered his wife has won a legal claim forcing the Prison Service to pay for his £7 haircuts every six weeks while he is on temporary release, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Charles Hanson is serving life at Blantyre House open prison near Maidstone. He is allowed out as part of his release plan, but was upset when told to pay for his own haircuts.

On a weekly wage of £9.50, he argued the prison service was responsible for maintaining his health, and a decent haircut was part of that.

After his victory, he wrote to tell inmates' online newspaper Inside Time, and took the chance to lament on the need to go to court, saying it should be a "last resort".

Hanson, a regular contributor, wrote: "Readers might like to know the claim was finally settled and the whole of the amount (£128 including costs) claimed for haircuts in the community whilst on day absences from prison was paid to me.

"I argued the Prison Service has a duty of care to make provisions for this need as they might do any other, and the fact that most prisons do so, and more so in the female estate, was a point I was trying to make."

He had previously written: "My argument concluded that I should not contribute towards my own imprisonment, and hair-cutting is a necessary requirement for the preservation of self-respect and decency."

Inmates are allowed to cut each other's hair, but Hanson said there was no guarantee "proper health and hygiene practices were followed – as one would expect of professional hairdressers".

But the outcome of the case has not pleased the Prison Service, which is now looking at ways to reduce litigation from cells.

Despite government lawyers agreeing the state had a duty of care for prisoners, including "health care, health and hygiene", a Ministry of Justice spokesman revealed: "Ministers are looking carefully at the issue of prisoner litigation and at how to avoid a litigation culture in prisons."

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ABTA Y0291

Camera snaps 6,600 cars

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

THE average speed cameras along the A2 passing Cobham snapped more than 6,000 drivers in just two years.

And the Kent and Medway Safety Camera Partnership, which runs the speed traps, is baffled as to why an average of more than nine drivers a day were caught.

A spokesman said: "The signs are big enough, and the cameras were on top of large gantries so it should have been almost impossible for drivers not to be aware of them."

The cameras were in operation through roadworks from Cobham to Pepper Hill near Gravesend. The fine is £60 and three penalty points.

The A2 was completely realigned in the area over the two years.

The cameras snapped a total of 6,616 drivers breaking the average 50mph speed limit.

The new camera system takes a note of a vehicle's registration as it enters the speed restriction zone, and then again at the end.

Computers then calculate the time taken to pass through the zone, and an average speed is worked out by dividing the distance by the time taken.

Slowing for intermediate cameras and then speeding up when passing has little effect, the partnership said, because they take the average speed, not the speed when passing each camera.

A spokesman said: "If all the tickets has been paid at £60 that would have produced just under £397,000.

"But for a whole variety of reasons like the case went to court, or failing to provide details of the driver, or those who already have nine points, we found 4,543 fixed penalty tickets were paid, producing £272,580, which is still a lot.

"We only get somewhere around 80 per cent paid as fixed penalties.

"We are genuinely concerned that we are picking up so many offences, particularly in roadworks.

"The reality is, people seem to think if they can't see road workers then the speed doesn't apply, or that it only applies when they get to the first cone, doesn't apply at 3am, or doesn't apply on a Sunday.

HIGH VIS: Speed cameras are unmissable

"People treat roadworks as an optional speed restricted area. We don't see a good level of obedience in roadworks any more than we do at our fixed-camera sites. That is a concern and we want to change that.

"Drivers are putting themselves at risk, and if there are road workers there, they are at risk too.

"On somewhere like the A2, there was no hard shoulder, narrow lanes, lots of things can go wrong and we can't tolerate 70mph traffic when you have temporary road layouts, chicanes and contraflow systems.

"There is a reason why there is a speed limit and a reason why we enforce them, but the public don't seem to realise quite how risky it is to drive through a set of roadworks.

"When they blatantly ignore these high-visibility cameras on top of the bright yellow gantries, they can only expect a ticket.

"People can't say they don't know about them. We put up large signs.

"We want people to know speed limits in roadworks are mandatory. Sadly, they just don't get the message.

"As far as we are concerned, 6,600 tickets were issued and that is 6,600 too many.

"These systems are out there, they are real, they are live, they do detect you, and if you think they are not working, there are 6,600 people who can tell you otherwise."

WIN tickets to see Katherine Jenkins

CLASSICAL superstar Katherine Jenkins has announced she will be performing in the county at a spectacular woodland location as part of the Forestry Commission's 2009 live music programme.

Re-defining the concept of classical crossover, Katherine has achieved global sales of more than three million records.

Last autumn saw the release of her sixth album, Sacred Arias, from a remarkable mezzo soprano whose versatility has enabled her to tackle a wide variety of styles, from the great arias of opera to the classics of Hollywood.

Since her debut album Premiere in 2004, the 28-year-old is now already the fastest-selling soprano ever.

Katherine Jenkins, with special guests All Angels and The National Symphony Orchestra, will be performing at Bedgebury Pinetum and Forest, near Goudhurst, on Sunday, June 7. Tickets are available from the Forestry Commission ticket hotline on 01842 814612 or you can buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

We have three pairs of tickets up for grabs. To enter, simply answer the question below and send your entry on a postcard

along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to Katherine Jenkins Competition, Kent on Sunday, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

The closing date is May 29, 2009.

Question: What was the name of Katherine's debut album?
a) First b) Premiere c) Now

No purchase necessary. For full terms and conditions see www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073.

If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.

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Royal Institute of British Architects vote quartet among the South East's finest

Kent's fab four

By **CHRIS MURPHY**

FOUR of the seven buildings in the South East to be awarded prestigious national architecture awards are in Kent.

The Royal Institute of British Architects singled out the quartet for their architectural excellence.

Being handed the RIBA 2009 Awards are Deal Pier by Niall McLaughlin Architects; El Ray, Dungeness, by Simon Conder Associates/Simon Conder and Pippa Smith; Bofors Tower, Dunkirk, by Robert Maxwell – Allies and Morrison; and Quarterhouse, Folkestone, by Alison Brooks Architects.

The others winners were in all in Surrey.

RIBA president Sunand Prasad said: "The RIBA Awards are a thermometer to indicate the state of health of British architecture and for 2009 the results are good.

"This year's list accurately reflects both the diversity, and the workload of UK architecture, with more schools and health buildings than usual winning awards. These awards, which are judged on a regional basis, reflect and reward the good things that are going on all across the UK."

The Kent four will now join the others hopefully on a shortlist for the RIBA Stirling Prize.

This is in association with The Architects' Journal and Crystal Digital Technology and is awarded to the architects of the building that has made the greatest contribution to British architecture in the past year. The prize will be presented at Old Billingsgate, London, on October 17, and broadcast on Channel 4.

Check out the great new Scrappage deals on motors

Feature starts on page 83

JUDGES' VERDICT ON TOP DESIGNS

1 QUARTERHOUSE ARTS CENTRE
"This project is the first new-build project and is the focal point and symbol of the regeneration plans for Folkestone. The building is a beacon at night, lighting up the street and a bold icon within the street scene."

2 BOFORS TOWER
"The conversion of a decaying, listed, World War Two gun emplacement on the site of a Scheduled Ancient Monument, into a weekend retreat has all the ingredients of an impossible enterprise. However, by working closely with the relevant authorities and by treating with creative respect the existing structure, the building has been re-invented as an unusual home."

3 DEAL PIER
"A beautiful addition to the town and seascape. It provides perfectly the experience a pier building should; that of being part of, as well as framing, views of the sea."

4 EL RAY
"The building is a four-roomed timber shelter that re-uses the existing structure of a railway carriage which is re-invented as a galley kitchen. The building sits perfectly in, and is another eccentric addition to, a landscape of re-used and bespoke construction."

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Detective work ensures that one pilot's sacrifice will never be forgotten

A RUSTY piece of steel found washed up on Ramsgate beach has been traced back 70 years to a Spitfire shot down by German pilots, ***writes Steve Knight***.

PUZZLE: Tony with the Spitfire part which revealed Sgt Chestnut's story

Military enthusiast Tony Ovenden discovered the part earlier this month and was intrigued by the marking written on the side, so much so that he placed a picture on the internet and appealed for anyone with information to get in touch.

The 52-year-old's research eventually led him to Sgt Guy Alexander Chestnut, whose aircraft was destroyed by German fighter pilots on June 11, 1941.

Mr Ovenden said: "I often go to the beach specifically to look for old aircraft parts because I've come across quite a lot over the years.

"Aircraft lost at sea often end up on the seabed and take a very long time to break up, and judging by how corroded this piece was it must have been in the sand for a while too.

"When I picked it up I noticed the stamp mark VACB534 which showed that it had been checked and passed by the manufacturer, but I didn't know what the number stood for.

"After I put it on the internet I was contacted by someone who specialises in old aircraft parts. He told me the VACB stood for Vickers Armstrong Castle Bromwich which was a firm that used to make Spitfires."

Horrific

Mr Ovenden's next port of call was to local aviation historian John Williams, who identified the craft as belonging to Sgt Chestnut – a member of the Royal Canadian Air Force who was based at Biggin Hill.

The brave pilot was making his way to RAF Manston when he was caught up in a dog fight with Messerschmitt Bf 109 planes that sent him crashing into the East Cliff area of Ramsgate cliffs. His body is now buried in Margate cemetery.

Both Mr Ovenden and Mr Williams, who are members of the Margate Historical Society, said they felt it was important to record and remember those who lost their lives in conflict.

Mr Williams said: "Air warfare in the 1940s was a young man's game. Our pilots were basically flying through enemy fire in an aluminium tube and it must have been absolutely horrific to be on the end of it. Their sacrifices should never be forgotten. Had it not been for them, we might all now be speaking German and paying our taxes to the Berlin city council."

Hands off the nest

BIRDS are in the middle of their breeding season and the RSPB in Kent is asking people to leave well alone and let nature take its course

The wildlife charity warns that if they don't, there is a significant risk young birds won't survive.

The phone lines at the RSPB are jammed in May with calls from people who have found young birds that appear to be abandoned or distressed.

The RSPB's Richard James said: "If you discover a nest please don't touch it. As soon as it is disturbed you risk the mother abandoning her eggs or chicks."

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'Widdecombe has Commons touch of interim Speaker'

By CHRIS MURPHY
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

MAIDSTONE MP Ann Widdecombe has admitted she would be interested in becoming an interim Speaker in the House of Commons after the resignation of Michael Martin.

She told Kent on Sunday: "I wouldn't do it in the long term because I've already made it clear I am retiring at the next election."

But she added: "If Parliament considers that an arrangement might be the best thing in the circumstances, that is different. I am listening to what people are saying."

Among those backing her as a replacement for Mr Martin – who decided to stand down in the wake of criticism over the MPs' expenses furore – is Nigel Evans, the Conservative MP for Ribble Valley.

He said: "Parliament is in need of serious reform. I would like to see Ann Widdecombe in the Speaker's chair helping to lead that reform. She has served her constituents with distinction for many years. She is respected across the House and well known in the country for her integrity, independence and high moral standing. I hope Ann puts her name forward and if she does I will back her all the way."

STANDING DOWN: Michael Martin

When it was pointed out she was becoming a popular choice, Miss Widdecombe said: "Well, I would like to think so, but the only place where popularity counts for this purpose is in the House of Commons, because that is where the votes are. All I can say is I am still listening to people."

And even if she did become Speaker, the 61-year-old confirmed she will be standing down at the next general election.

She said: "Yes, that is definite."

Another Kent MP mentioned as a possible candidate is senior backbencher Roger Gale, Tory member for Thanet North.

He is being backed by Craig Murray, who desribes himself a "Scottish dissident, human rights activist, writer and former British ambassador".

'Prejudice'

He is Rector of the University of Dundee and an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Lancaster School of Law.

He wrote on his blog: "Michael Martin singlehandedly justifies every prejudice we Edinburgh people have against the self-serving, chancing whingers from the West [Glasgow].

"He shouldn't resign. He should be ceremoniously drowned in Douglas Hogg's moat. We've paid for it, so we might as well use it.

"New Labour have had two Speakers in a row. That's enough. The Liberals want to foist Ming Campbell on us, but he is already as insufferably pompous as he is dull-witted.

"He would be a disaster as Speaker. They offer Alan Beith as an alternative, but he's stupefyingly dull.

"I am hereby declaring for Roger Gale for Speaker. He is a former director of Blue Peter. If you can control John Noakes, Peter Purves and Shep, then the House of Commons should be a doddle.

"More seriously, I worked with him on election observation in Ghana and he is dead straight, alarmingly energetic and with a real passion for democracy."

It is understood Mr Gale has not yet thrown his hat in the ring.

On Friday, the shortest odds on Mr Gale becoming Speaker were 20-1, Miss Widdecombe was 10-1 and Ashford's Tory MP Damian Green was 50-1.

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OUT OF CHARACTER: Charity goes against Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest

There's nothing generous about charitable acts

WHY men give money to beggars in an effort to improve their own sex appeal is one of the topics explored in a talk about charitable works and how they square with Darwin's theories of evolution, ***writes Jenna Pudelek***.

Mark van Vugt, professor of social psychology at the University of Kent, is one of the organisers of a series of six symposiums about the great naturist and his legacy to mark the 200th anniversary of Darwin's birth and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his On The Origin of Species.

The seminar on Friday, at the university's Canterbury campus, will explore charity giving, philanthropy and volunteer work in relation to the theories of Darwin, who lived in Down House near Orpington.

"Basically what we are trying to do is look at the motivation and psychology under altruistic behaviour, because helping people is not necessarily in tune with evolutionary theory," Prof van Vugt said. "We will be talking about donating to charity, volunteering and conservation – behaviour that is a cost to yourself and of benefit to another.

"Darwin's theory of evolution says organisms should basically benefit themselves not others, how can you reconcile that fact when there is so much altruism going on?"

Prof van Vugt said this was a question that troubled Darwin himself, who came up with theories of his own, and social scientists have since come up with a range of answers.

Reputation can play an important part in our reasons for giving. For example, businessmen and women donating to charities show the company is responsible and values society, he said. In a recession, it can also show that an individual can still afford to give and is therefore wealthy enough.

Giving can also be part of our instinct to find a mate: "We are also going to show in the seminar that it helps to attract attention from members of the opposite sex. Men are more likely to give money to a beggar in the presence of their girlfriend to impress their mate, which can happen subconsciously."

The aim of the seminars is to look at the practical use of evolutionary psychology as a tool for informing social policy.

A wide range of people, including psychologists, economists and those involved with policy development in the public and private sectors will be taking part.

• ***For more information and to register for the seminar email Brian Spisak at bs85@kent.ac.uk or go to www.myscienceproject.nl/evol.html#kent.***

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Dog brothers in need of a home

TWO crossbred German shepherds rescued by wardens are still waiting to find a home three months on.

Dogs Tim and Daniel – named after the duo who rescued them – were found by Swale council's stray dog service in February after being discovered abandoned in Faversham.

It is now hoped the pair – thought to be brothers and around two-years-old – can be re-homed.

If you are interested in re-homing Tim or Daniel, contact the Jasmil Kennels on 01795 842466.

New film gets to the heart of the matter

Graduate takes trip to Rwanda to document lifesaving team

A YOUNG film-maker has just returned from war-torn Rwanda after producing his first feature-length project, ***writes Chris Murphy***.

Leon McCarron, 22, from Canterbury, followed a heart surgery team and filmed their progress as they saved lives in the African country.

Leon said: "I take on freelance film projects and also work at the Gulbenkian Theatre and cinema. I studied film at the University of Kent, graduating last June, with a first-class honours.

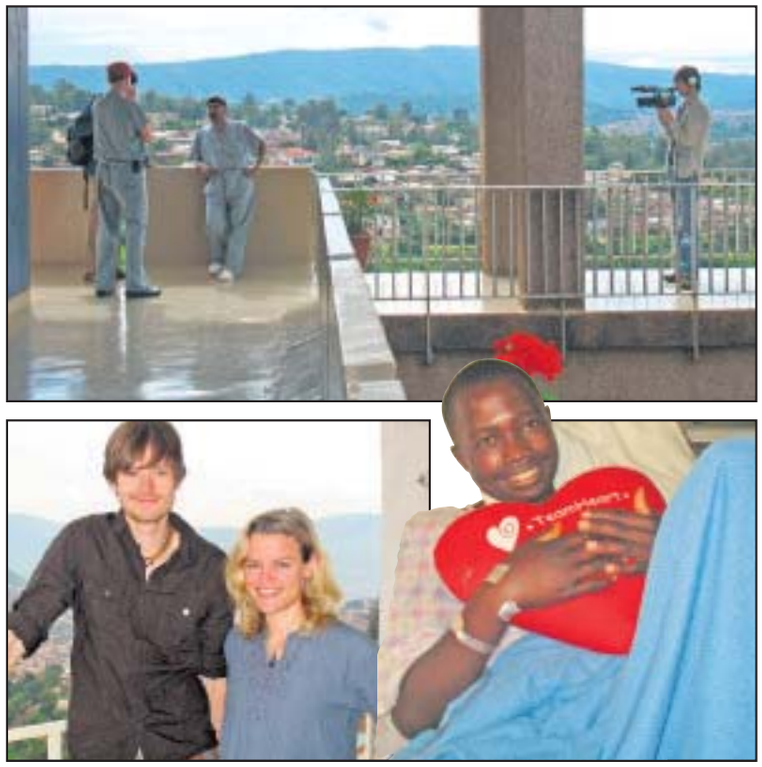
"My latest and biggest project to date was a feature-length documentary entitled Murakaza Neza Team Heart. It was an independent production, devised and directed by Hayley Jannesen, based in London.

"The film follows a team of doctors, surgeons and clinicians from the Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, America, as they travel to the capital of Rwanda, Kigali, to perform essential heart surgery on patients suffering from rheumatic heart disease.

"Hayley and I travelled to Boston at the end of March and filmed the team preparing to leave, then accompanied them on their three-week mission in Kigali.

"They performed 13 successful heart surgeries during their time there and also provided teaching for the local Rwandese doctors and nurses.

"This is the second year Team Heart, as they are called, have visited the King Faisal Hospital in Kigali where the operations took place. Their long-term aim is to return every year for up to 10 years and eventually create a self-sustaining cardiac care program in Rwanda, which would also be the first of its kind in sub-Saharan Africa.



CARDIAC CARE: (Clockwise) Leon films a conversation between the surgeons; Jean Pierre, one of the a post-op patients; Leon with director, Hayley Jannesen in Kigali

Launch

"We filmed the whole mission, including the actual open-heart surgeries themselves. Editing is currently getting started and we will probably be in post-production for up to eight months."

Leon used the Gulbenkian Theatre to launch his career.

He said: "I live and work in Canterbury and am heavily involved in the arts scene here, centring of course around the Gulbenkian. Having studied here, I have used my film degree to propel my early film-making career"

Clips trailers and news will appear on the official site, so visit www.welcometeamheart.weebly.com

The website for the film is www.welcometeamheart.weebly.com and Leon's personal website is www.leonmccarron.com.

Cosy up to Gemma on the judging panel

WHAT teenage film buff would pass up the chance to sit on a panel with Gravesend-born star Gemma Arterton?

Well, that's just what is on offer to anyone aged 13-19. They chosen one will be able to rub shoulders with the Bond girl, plus Hollywood legend Kevin Spacey.

Gemma, 23, will next be seen in the action adventure Prince of Persia, plus she has been filming Clash of the Titans, and will be Cathy in the new remake of Wuthering Heights, all of which will be in the cinemas next year.

The would-be Jonathan Ross will help them judge short films entered in the Virgin Media Shorts competition, they will need to know their Billy Elliot from Bill and Ted.

The contest will be shining a light on up-and-coming film talent with the help of the prestigious judging panel.

Also in the judging line up will be Bafts's Rising Star 2009, Noel Clarke, and award-winning short film director, Daniel Barber.

Gemma Arterton

Entrants need to tell Virgin Media why they think they are the UK's biggest teen film fan.

To enter visit www.virginmediashorts.co.uk/vipjudge. Deadline for entries is Saturday, June 20, when entries will be reviewed and one teenager crowned the overall winner.

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CHRIS BRITCHER
CAMPAIGN EDITOR
chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

Bite into a British berry

Celebrity chef Richard Phillips is a supporter of our 2009 KOS Media campaign, encouraging readers to buy from local suppliers. In the latest of his exclusive columns, he takes a close-up look at the joys of the strawberry – and shares one of his favourite recipes.

THE taste of the summer for many is best encapsulated with a mouth-watering Kentish strawberry and the first strawberries of the season are now being picked and packed in the next basket from Foodforkent.co.uk.

The British strawberry is iconic and conjures visions of what is best about living in England.

For some the taste brings back memories of times gone by, when life seemed less hurried and simpler, and for others it is tennis at Wimbledon and the hope of glory on the tennis court.

Now is the perfect time to add strawberries to your shopping list at www.foodforkent.co.uk as they are coming through thick and fast and are of great quality; packed full of flavour.

I managed to taste quite a few from different Kent suppliers when I was down at the Foodforkent.co.uk HQ filming the third episode of my new internet TV series, Made in Great Britain, which you can view at www.pod3.tv or download the full episode free from iTunes.

During my visit to Bank Farm in Aldington, near Ashford, I was also able to pick some fresh asparagus and went foraging for wild garlic, which is bang in season at the minute and sadly only lasts for about one more month.

Wild garlic is so versatile and can be used in salads but also adds flavour to soups or even to infuse cream for dauphinoisse potatoes.

The flower can be used to garnish fish dishes and even to lift a salad.

While at Bank Farm, one thing which greatly impressed me was the free-range egg farm and how well the chickens were kept and how happy they seem. Happy chickens produce great eggs. I took some away with me and cooked a poached egg dish with the freshly picked asparagus – heaven. Duck eggs are currently in abundance at the moment too and there are some special deals on Foodforkent.co.uk which you can take advantage of.

Talking of things nostalgic, I was back in school earlier this month opening a new dining room and kitchen at the Sutton Valence Preparatory School in Chart Sutton, Maidstone, and did a cooking demonstration to 200 children, parents, teachers and governors.

We did a quiz with the children on food from around the country and why we should buy local and what advantages it brings to the environment and our pockets. They loved it, and it was great to see how aware the children were of the issues and how they understood that by buying local and fresh produce the taste is so much more enhanced. It was a great day.

My recipe today is one of my favourite deserts, bakewell tart with Kentish strawberries and this is a dish that conjures up all of those nostalgic images and feelings of summers past and those to come. I hope you enjoy it and don't forget if you have any cooking or recipe questions, email me at richard.phillips@kosmedia.co.uk and I will be happy to answer them.

Richard Phillips

Bakewell tart with Kentish strawberries

Ingredients

1 x sheet of shop -bought puff pastry
4 tablespoons of strawberry jam
Almond paste (see recipe below)
2 egg yolks (for the egg wash)
1 quantity of royal icing (see recipe below)
Handful of flaked almonds
1 punnet of Kentish strawberries
1 tablespoon of icing sugar
2 tablespoons of balsamic vinegar
Vanilla ice-cream or cream to serve

Almond Paste – combine ingredients
200g butter
200g caster sugar
100g whisked eggs
50g plain flour
100g ground almonds

Royal icing – combine ingredients
225g icing sugar
35g egg whites
splash of lemon juice

Method

- Roll out the puff pastry to a 3mm thickness
- Butter four individual tartlet cases and line with the rolled-out pastry
- Place a tablespoon of the jam in the base of each one. Pipe in the almond paste, leave space at the top of the mould, brush with the egg wash, now place another sheet of rolled out puff pastry over the top. Using a rolling pin, roll over the tartlet mould to cut off the edges. Leave to rest for 20min.
- Pre heat the oven to 170c.
- Using a palate knife, spread a thin layer of royal icing over the top of the tart and sprinkle with a few flakes of almonds.
- Bake in a pre-heated oven for 20min or until golden brown on top.
- Warm the strawberries in a pan with the icing sugar and balsamic vinegar for 3-4minutes, just until the juices start to come out of the strawberries. Allow to cool
- Place the strawberries on top of the tart and serve with a scoop of ice-cream or drizzled with cream.

foodforkent.co.uk We are committed to adding more local suppliers to our online service and any local business or producer that wishes to join our campaign should contact us at foodforkent.co.uk or email us at feedback@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Wait was too long

MAY 21, 2009, will be forever remembered as the day the Government finally did the right thing for the Gurkhas.

It may have taken longer than anyone wanted, but Home Secretary Jacqui Smith's announcement means all retired Nepalese soldiers are now free to reside in the UK.

Joanna Lumley may have grabbed all the headlines for this momentous victory, but the contribution of Kent's very own Peter Carroll should not be understated.

Nor should that of the four Gurkha veterans who turned up on his door five years ago to ask for help in their fight against deportation. Without their willingness to stand up against an unjust immigration policy, the Gurkha Justice Campaign would have never seen the light of day.

But despite the remarkable achievements of Mr Carroll and company, they should not have needed to get involved in the first place.

The Government must also be congratulated on its decision, but the fact it was pressured into doing so will have left a sour taste in many a voter's mouth.

Picture perfect dad

MUNISH Bansal's photo album containing pictures of his two children puts those of other parents to shame.

But then most mums and dads do not have the foresight to take pictures covering every day of their young one's lives, nor the determination to keep it up.

It will be interesting to see how much longer Mr Bansal will be able to continue with his hobby, especially seeing as how daughter Suman is now a teenager.

OPINION: It's human to take liberties

Be honest now – who wouldn't enjoy snaffling the occasional freebie, wonders Chris Murphy

WE ALL like to think we're honest. But maybe people in the office sometimes nick a pen or stapler, and workers in factories occasionally pinch a bit of whatever they happen to be making at the time.

We all take liberties to some degree – even if it's with the truth. It's human nature after all, but there are some who go too far, those who help themselves to far too much. To more than they are 'entitled' to under the auspices of 'work owes it to me'.

And then we come to our MPs. You need to have been living on the far side of the galaxy to be ignorant of House of Commons expenses fiasco.

Let me say this right now: as usual, this is the minority managing to tar the majority with their single giant-sized brush.

Pigs in troughs? Old boys sticking together? Members of a gentlemen's club who have finally run out of ways to fill their bulging pockets?

Call it what you like – most of us know this is a scandal.

Did you see Have I Got News For You hosted by Rolf Harris last week?

An MP who once appeared on the show was recorded as saying something along the lines of, "Yeah, we're all at it – what a great system".

And then the same poor chap was shown in front of a TV news camera admitting, "Oops, you got me. Yes, it's a bad system and it needs changing" (before almost certainly muttering, "Damn it…" under his breath).

The truth is, if you put gold in front of most people, given long enough they are going to reach out to touch it.

If no-one murmurs, they will pick it up and carry it about for a while. If it still remains quiet, they will take it home.

And of course the slippery slope is completely oiled up. They will mention it to their friends, and they will mention it to theirs. Eventually, they are all grabbing as much as they can before someone notices.

It's the same with any crime. Ensure you are not going to get caught, and once all that planning is done, dive in with both grasping hands.

It's the same with bank robbers, those who commit fraud and even the ones who 'borrow' that stapler from work.

Once the barn door is open, you take two or three staplers for the rest of the family, and so the temptation grows.

Now, of course, with the help of the Daily Telegraph, there is much hand-wringing and moaning, mainly because far too many (not all, remember) realise the golden days are over.

The wages of an MP are not too bad. And yes, they need to be in London at the drop of a hat, so a second home is crucial for most.

And it's only right we pay for them – to a degree. I can't help thinking an MPs' dorm at Parliament would be a good idea.

I can just see that getting voted in. But how about a more realistic approach, along the lines of the military and police homes in the past.

Have the Government buy up a few hundreds flats, then rent them to the members who live X number of miles away. Not for a lot, but enough to pay for them in the very long term. Sounds perfect. These are supposed to be bases for them to get to the Commons and back.

Just thinking about it, has anyone looked at the Lords' expenses list?

Must be a few moats on there than need attention. Not to mention a cartload of chandeliers.

As always, the answers seem simply to the outsider. I should imagine there is a major reason why the rented flats system won't work, but something needs to be done, that much is clear.

And perhaps this new independent body will dream something up. Unless they fall into the pocket of some MPs who in return for passing some dodgy expenses list will pay their new 'friend' back.

Maybe I'm too cynical, but you know that where there is a large slush fund laying around desperate to be spent, someone will develop a way to get more than they deserve.

Mr Speaker Michael Martin has gone, perhaps he could be chairman of this new independent group to oversee the expenses.

Yep, that'll work. Won't it?

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Judgement day nears

Sharon Haigh of Rochester has been charged with theft, fraud and forgery after a "considerable" amount of money went missing from her former workplace (KoS, May 17).

I have no idea of the alleged amount involved. I do know, however, that it will be tiny compared with the millions our money-obsessed, disreputable, morally bankrupt, devious, bent, arrogant ministers and MPs have stolen from taxpayers over the years.

Had Sharon had the magic letters 'MP' after her name, she would have presented her a cast-iron defence, whatever her guilt or innocence. "It was merely a small accountancy error. Accountancy is not my strongest point. I'm as straight as they come."

In your compassion, dear readers, pray for Sharon, knowing that the greedy pigs swimming in the Westminster cesspit will soon face judgement.

Peter Phillips, Hythe

Uncharitable shops

With public donations falling you would think charities would encourage all-comers.

Not so. I have a small dog and am banned from some local charity shops. I can lift my dog and carry him, but even this is unacceptable. No wonder people use the internet.

I have heard MPs apologising for their expenses claims.

I heard one say: "I take responsibility as an MP for the expenses system." What does he mean? Will he repay? Will he urge colleagues to do so? They could make a donation to charity. Our disabled daughter is supervised by a charity which received £25,000 in donations last year. So far this year, £500 has been received. Then there are the charities helping soldiers injured in Iraq (which well-paid, misguided idiots voted for them to go there?).

MPs could donate to help those who serve selflessly – not selfishly.

Ivan Armstrong, Meopham

Light bulbs and limericks

I sympathise with your story headlined 'Incandescent with rage over EU light bulb laws' (Kent on Sunday, last week).

The new bulbs contain mercury which can damage the health, particularly the brain.

What will happen to the new bulbs when their life expires? (And I know they will last longer than standard bulbs).

They will probably be thrown in the bin and finish up in landfill where the mercury could well leak into water supplies.

Very clever.

There was young lady named Dot,
Who said, 'These new lightbulbs they've got
Contain mercury
Which, they tell me
Can damage your brain quite a lot'.

Marc Hurstfield, Northfleet

Glad to be of service

Congratulations on a very good digital newspaper (www.kentnews.co.uk), particularly in terms of ease of handling and reading the pages online.

There has been a lot of comment lately on the plight of the local and regional press. I hope KOS Media's efforts will ensure your survival as an important part of local journalism. We cannot do without you.

I wish you well – for all our sakes.

Adam Thomson, Dover

A display of stealth

I am a frequent user of the car park at Grove Ferry, near Canterbury, which is convenient for visiting Stodmarsh nature reserve.

Many walkers, birdwatchers, anglers and picnickers have enjoyed the access this amenity gives to the reserve and riverside activities. On arrival the other day I was surprised to see pay and display machines. This site has always had free parking. Part of the site adjacent to the public toilets had an honesty box, which was little used, according to KCC.

Honesty does seem to be out of fashion, if the recent antics of MPs are any indication.

I am sure other users will bear out my belief that the part to the left of the entrance from the road was always free.

This took place with the minimum of public consultation. Notices went up at the site between January 12 and February 26, where formal objections were invited. Not surprisingly none were received and I suspect this was because few visitors go to the reserve in winter.

The pay and display road traffic order was then advertised through the local press.

I don't think advertising only in the Canterbury press is sufficient as people visit from other parts of Kent.

People should be encouraged to use the countryside and it's a shame we have now to pay for what was previously free. A £1 charge may not seem a lot to make a fuss about, but it is a further example of the stealth employed in implementing erosions of our freedoms.

Joe Eddington, Birchington

Lacking political will

Leslie Turner is missing the point about meeting housing need (KoS, last week). First of all, current mortgage and transaction costs are much too high for most would-be first-time buyers.

Until this changes, building houses will not be meeting the demands of the poorest would-be purchasers, only meeting the needs of those who already own property and have some capital in consequence.

Secondly, we have 18,000 empty homes and about 6,000 serviceable industrial and retail buildings empty in Kent. All these should be used before we build more houses. There are also persistently empty areas of industrial estates which should be re-zoned for housing.

Thirdly, since an excess of credit contributed to creating the recession, it is not in anyone's interest to extend credit over-generously once again.

We need more social housing to meet local demand, preferably with councils being empowered to buy property on the open market. But the Government is squeezing local council spending while maintaining many areas of central government spending on things we do not need – such as the national ID card or the escalating costs of new computer systems for the NHS.

There are enough resources to meet local housing demand. But we lack a government willing to meet this challenge, leaving construction workers on the dole instead.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party, Tonbridge

Letters continued on page 46

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

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CHANGE YOUR LIFE: Vauxhall's seven-seat Zafira is the UK's best-selling midi-MPV and a big hit with Motability users who need a big family car or one that can be used in various roles – the Zafira's five rear seats can be folded flat to create different seating arrangements or a van-like cargo area; and right, for space and value, the eight-seat Hyundai i800 is unbeatable

Motability still under-utilised

PEOPLE with mobility problems and their families have had their lives changed radically by Motability, yet this benefit continues to be overlooked by many who qualify.

This revolutionary charity has grown rapidly in recent years with some 500,000 users – 97 per cent say they would recommend to friends.

Many motor dealers also now have in-house specialists who can help tailor the best car and deal to suit those who need to get mobile.

Despite these two trends though, an estimated 1.3 million more eligible people haven't taken advantage of it.

Motability is open to anyone who receives either the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement.

Customers simply exchange their allowance for a worry-free mobility package, including:

- Car, powered wheelchair or scooter
- Insurance
- Servicing
- Tyres
- Breakdown cover

Adaptations and wheelchair accessible vehicles are also available.

Some cars may be suited to particular requirements more than others. Cars vary considerably in measurements.

Seat height, door opening angle and storage space for wheelchairs and equipment can all make the difference between a car that is suitable and a car that is neither enjoyable nor comfortable to drive.

Many customers choose automatic transmission – speak to your dealer about the various transmission options available.

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

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For more information about the great offers available from SEAT UK and to find your local SEAT motability dealer please call 0500 22 22 24 and speak to one of our advisors.

^Model shown is the Ibiza SC 1.4 SE at nil advance payment. *To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Mobility Component of Disability Living Allowance or war Pensioners' Mobility Supplement. Advance payment (AP) valid for applications to Motability for 1st April - 30th June.
Official fuel consumption for the SEAT Ibiza range in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 31.7 (8.9) - 37.2 (7.6); extra urban 53.3 (5.3) - 57.6 (4.9); combined 42.8 (6.6) - 47.9 (5.9). CO2 emissions 139 - 157g/km.

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How all of it works

BUYING and adapting a car for a disabled driver can be expensive.

The Motability Scheme – run by the non-profit making independent organisation Motability – gives disabled people the opportunity to own or lease a car at an affordable price.

The scheme helps with leasing or buying a car if you receive the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement or the higher rate of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA).

Even if you don't drive, you can apply for a car as a passenger and propose two other people as your drivers.

You can also apply for a car on behalf of a child aged three or over, who is entitled to the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance.

There are several finance options available to you if you are looking to get a vehicle for a disabled driver:

• Contract hire – you can lease a new car from a Motability Accredited dealer for at least three years if you have 12 months or more of your Disability Living Allowance 'award' remaining. If your award is not renewed during the full length of your chosen scheme, your car will need to be returned. At the end of the period, the car is returned to Motability Operations.

• Ninety five per cent of Motability customers choose Contract Hire which offers:

A new car of their choice from more than 4,000 every three years
Insurance and personal accident cover
Servicing and maintenance
Full breakdown assistance from RAC
Free replacement tyres fitted by Kwik-Fit
Window or windscreen replacement at no extra cost.

• Hire purchase – enables you to buy the car you want and this can be a new or used car. You are responsible for negotiating the purchase price with the dealer and arranging and paying for comprehensive insurance, breakdown recovery, your car tax disc, servicing and repairs.

STYLE: Seat's Altea MPV mixes sportiness and practicality in great style...

CHEAP: Vauxhall's Agila has the on-road footprint of a city car or supermini, but the cabin of small MPV – ideal for someone needing a cheap run-about with easy access

SPORTY: While the Mazda5 lives up to the Zoom Zoom brand's sporty image – and offers sliding doors and six decent seats and an occasional extra

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RENAULT

The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the range shown are: Urban 37.2–54.3 (7.6–5.2), Extra Urban 57.6–70.6 (4.9–4.0), Combined 47.9–64.2 (5.9–4.4). The official CO2 emission figures range from 117–139g/km.
Inclusion is dependent on receipt of the higher rate component of the Disability Living Allowance from the Department of Work and Pensions. Full written quotation and details, including terms and condition, available on request. The facilities are for the hire (bailment) of goods. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Finance Ltd. City Gate house, 22 Southwark Bridge Rd, London SE1 9HB. Models shown for illustration purposes only, these offers supersede any previously advertised offers.

SPACIOUS: Seat's new Ibiza car is a supermini packed with style and space; and above right, Renault has just launched an all-new seven-seat Grand Scenic MPV onto the forecourts

Adaptabilty help boosts scheme

APPLICATIONS for cars with adaptations on the Motability Scheme have soared over the last few years.

The rise followed changes to include the most popular adaptations within the Motability car lease at no extra cost; under previous arrangements the most popular adaptation, hand controls, would have cost more than £300.

Many other adaptations are available at more affordable levels. A Motability spokesman said: "Making the Motability Scheme more affordable for those who have the greatest mobility requirements is a major achievement.

"As well as better value adaptations, customers will find that a selection of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAVs) are now available with no advance payment.

"This is a key part of a key drive to make the scheme more accessible for those who need adapted or 'drive from' wheelchair cars."

Increased dedicated training for dealers is also available; seminars for car dealers now include helping them manage requests for adaptations as part of everyday transactions.

The spokesman added: "The Motability Scheme now offers over 84 per cent of all adaptations required by our customers and these are available to order at the same time as choosing a new car.

"One easy process allows customers to receive their new car ready fitted with the required adaptations and there are no additional hold ups to getting on the road."

Further extensive adaptations are available at more affordable rates and manufacturer-fitted adaptations are an option when ordering a new car.

DECEPTIVE: The Vauxhall Meriva packs a lot of space into modest dimensions

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Model shown is Sirion 1.3 SE available at £9,300 OTR. Metallic paint is an extra cost. All prices include £55 first registration fee and 12 months road fund licence. Price is correct at time of going to print. Award winning reliability; as published in the 'Which? Magazines Car Awards 2008'.
Official Government Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (Litres per 100 km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) Urban Cycle 32.8 (8.6) – 46.3 (6.1) Extra Urban 54.3 (5.2) – 64.2 (4.4) Combined 44.1 (6.4) – 56.5 (5.0) CO_2 emissions 118 – 151

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Model shown is the Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 3dr (manual) in Shine Red solid paint. Offer applies to the Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 3dr (manual) with metallic paint only and is subject to availability. *To qualify for this offer you must be in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance or War Pensioners' Motability Supplement. For customers in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component of the Disability Living Allowance the i20 1.2 Classic 3dr (manual) is available at Nil advance payment. The Hyundai Dealer will pay the qualifying customer £400 cashback in the form of a cheque on delivery of the car. For customers in receipt of the War Pensioners' Motability Supplement the i20 1.2 Classic 3dr (manual) is available at nil advance payment. The Hyundai Dealer will pay the qualifying customer £400 cashback in the form of a cheque on delivery of the car. Payment and cashback offer valid only where both the application to Motability and the registration of the vehicle occurs between 7th May 2009 and 30th June 2009 and subject to acceptance of Motability application. Available at participating Motability Approved Hyundai Dealers. The nil advance payment and cashback offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time and is correct at the time of publication. The Motability Contract Hire Scheme is administered by Motability Operations Limited (Registered Company No. 1373876). City Gate House, 22 Southwark Bridge Road, London, SE1 9HB. Full written details, including terms and conditions, of the Motability Scheme are available on request from Motability. Please note that 20,000 miles per year are allowed on the Motability Contract Hire Scheme. See your local participating authorised dealer for full terms and conditions of the offer and other purchase terms.
Fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) for Hyundai i20 1.2 Classic 3dr (manual): Urban 44.1 (6.4), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 54.3 (5.2). CO_2 Emissions 124g/km.

Motability can help fund needy cases

MOTABILITY can sometimes offer financial help towards the cost of a suitable car, adaptations, driving lessons or a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle.

Grants average nearly £20 million a year, helping some 5,000 customers with their mobility needs. There are several sources:

• Charitable Grants

Funding for charitable grants comes from Motability's fund-raising activities and the Motability Tenth Anniversary Trust, to provide help towards:

1) Advance Payments on standard production cars.

2) Adaptations: such as hand controls, swivel seats, wheelchair hoists.

3) Driving Lessons: customers aged between 16 and 24, and in receipt of the Higher Rate Mobility Component may be eligible for help towards the cost of driving lessons.

• Government Grants

Motability also administers funds on behalf of the Government for people who need a heavily adapted car, often a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle. There are three possible sources:

The Specialised Vehicles Fund: for people who need a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle, either as a driver or passenger.

War Pensioners: people receiving the War Pensioners' Mobility Supplement and qualifying for a Motability car, may be eligible for a grant from the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency, based on medical records.

If this requires a vehicle or adaptations costing more than the standard grants available, an application can be made to Motability for help.

Ex-Invalid Vehicle Service Holders: Motability also deals with applications from customers who previously drove a three-wheeled, blue "trike", or other Government vehicle.

ROOMY: Two Motability contenders which are roomy yet compact and stylish: Daihatsu Materia (right) and Renault Grand Modus (above right); the VW Touran (above) delivers a more upmarket feel along with its obvious practicality

Motability
The leading car scheme for disabled people

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BIRTHS

BORG-JONES
Ruben born in Margate on 10th May 2009, weighing 8lbs. Son to Wendy,Jenni and Andrew.

CHART
The Chart Family celebrate the birth of Tyler William Chart born on 3rd May 2009, weighing 7lb 6oz. Son to Rachel Chart, Grandson to Paula and David Chart, and Nephew to Victoria and Melissa Chart of Maidstone.

CROFTS
Carly and Layne would like to announce the birth of their daughter Richelle Samantha Crofts, born on the 8th May 2009 weighing 6lbs 5ozs at William Harvey Hospital.

EVERETT
Paul and Louise Everett of Hythe celebrate the birth of their daughter Amelie Jane Rose on 7th May 2009. A little sister for Aiden

FOREMAN
Deborah and David of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their son Lucas Albert Foreman, born on 9th May 2009 at QEQM weighing 8lb 5oz. Brother to Alexandra and Theadora.

FREELOVE
Colin and Samantha of Aylesham are both pleased and proud to announce the safe arrival of their daughter, Holly May, on 5th May 2009 weighing 8lb. A new sister for Sonia, Sarah, Georgina. Amy and Lucy.

GILBERT
Kallum Winter born on 8th May 2009 weighing 7lbs 10oz. Son of Tracey of Sittingbourne. You are the miracle who I will love and treasure forever.

GIMBER
Jessica Louise born on 3rd May 2009, weighing 6lbs 5ozs. Daughter to Thomas and Kimberley.

HAMPTON
Graham and Sharron of Faversham are proud to announce the birth of their son, Ollie Thomas, on 1st May 2009. A new brother for Josh, Jack, Elliot and Callum.

HARNETT
Oliver born on 9th May 2009, weighing 7lbs 12oz. Son to Carma and Paul Harnett on St. Marys Island, Chatham.

HEDGES
Tim and Jo celebrate the birth of their son Oscar Alexander Hedges born on 2nd May 2009, weighing 7lb. Brother to Archie.

MACGREGOR
Karen and Darren of St Peters are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Niamh Lily, born on 6th May 2009. Sister to Danni.

REES
Mia Sophie Rees born on 1st May 2009, weighing 8lb 4oz. Daughter to Julia and David and sister to Harry in Laddingford.

ROBINSON
Lisa and Darren are pleased to announce the birth of Joshua-Jack Michael Robinson, born on 6th April 2009 at the William Harvey Hospital Ashford.

ROCHFORD
Louise and Chris would like to announce the birth of their second daughter, Taneka Maya Chilli Rochford on 1st May 2009, sister to Ilyana.

SAVERY
Charlotte born on 3rd May 2009, weighing 7lbs 11oz. Daughter to Laura and Kevin Savery in Aylesford.

SHIELDS
Michael and Angela are proud to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Oliver Michael Shields born on 6th May 2009 weighing in at 7lb 11oz. A baby brother for Phoebe xx

SHINE
Shine and Silvy of Dover celebrate the birth of their daughter Neha on 7th May 2009. Little sister to Noyal.

STYLES
Joe and Vicky of Herne Bay are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Isobel May, on 13th May 2009 weighing 8lb 8oz. A new sister for Annise and Alfie.

VADHER
Lindsey and Sanjay Vadher celebrate the birth of their daughter Jessica Pratima Rose on 9th May 2009 Sister to James.

VAN JENSEN
Kirsty and Paul of St Peters are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Evie Grace, born on 10 May 2009 at QEQM weighing 5lb 12oz.

DEATHS

BARNETT
Marion Christine Barnett of Dover suddenly passed away on 15th May 2009. A dearly loved wife, mum, nan, daughter-in-law and friend.Forever in our hearts. The funeral will be held at Barham on Thursday 28th May at 11.20am. Flowers will be greatly appreciated but if desired donations to Dr Barnados.

BROAD
John Broad of Northfleet passed away on Friday 8th May 2009. Sadly missed by wife Zena Graham Christine and Wendy.

COOPER
Gloria died peacefully at home on 14th May 2009 aged 64 years. Please contact Chittendens Undertakers for flowers and donations 01303 851456.

GRAY
Ronald (Ron) Ernest Gray passed away on 14th May 2009, aged 77. Dearly loved father to Alec and grand-father to Katie and Christopher Gray. Funeral service to be arranged, enquiries to Clarkes Funeral Services, Snodland.

HEARSEY
Joseph Victor Hearsey of Margate passed away on 14th May 2009. Enquiries to Aston Walker Funeral Directors 01843 227059.

JACKSON
Shirley and Peter of Staplehurst passed away peacefully on 28th April and 10th May. Enquiries to Doves Funerals Staplehurst 01580 892125. Together in peace.

PAGE
Richard John Page passed away at Maidstone Hospital on 12th May 2009 surrounded by family and friends.

SAMSON
Sidney Thomas Samson (Sid). Passed away peacefully after a long illness on 15th May 09. Funeral to take place on Friday 29th May at 1.15 at Selling Parish Church followed by cremation at Barham. Family flowers only. Donation to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, care of Hogbin Partis, Faversham.

WEST
It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Ian West on the 9th May 2009, beloved husband of Rosa, and much loved father of Lesley and Simon. The funeral has taken place.

WHITTINGTON
Bertha Winifred Whittington, nee Bourne, passed away on 14th May 2009 aged 95. Dearly loved mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Funeral service to be held at Vinters Park Crematorium on 5th June at 3.30pm. Donations to Cancer Research UK please.

WYBORN
Frank Edwin Wyborn died peacefully on 19th May 2009. Funeral service at Tunbridge Wells crematorium at 12.30pm on Monday 8th June 2009. Family flowers only, but donations may be made via Abbey Funeral Services 173 High Street Tonbridge TN9 1BX.

Letters continued from page 41

Human compassion

I am sorry Mr Holder (Letters, last week) seems to believe that anyone who cares about the suffering of animals is against medical research, which is not the case, as I would like to see real scientific research not the outdated, unreliable, unethical animal-based research that is a danger to human health.

Mr Holder is obviously unaware of organisations such as the Dr Hadwen Trust, the Humane Research Trust and the Lord Dowding Fund that fund non-animal based research at hospitals and universities and strive to develop new techniques to replace animals in experimentation, and benefit humans at the same time.

Some recent research projects include viral brain infections, cystic fibrosis, asthma, neurofibromatosis, liver damage, brain research and brain imaging, breast cancer, pneumonia, multiple sclerosis, premature labour and pain research, all without using any animals.

By using more reliable, cheaper, faster and sophisticated technologies, accurate knowledge can be quickly gained, bypassing misleading animal tests.

No other industry still uses such outdated methods, all others have moved with the times. Also, only 1.16 per cent of human illnesses are ever seen in animals, 98.4 per cent never are.

Rats are 37 per cent effective in identifying what causes cancer. Flipping a coin would be more accurate. The science journal Nature recently stated the use of mice as 'models' for testing drugs is, "nearly useless".

In the past year alone three new Alzheimer's drugs that appeared promising in mice failed in all clinical trials due to the fact that scientists can only mimic the disease in mice by deforming their brains as they do not get Alzheimer's disease.

Also a dozen drugs to treat amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a progressive disease of the nerves, failed completely in human trials with one of the drugs actually making the condition worse.

In the wake of high-profile vaccine failures for Aids, some of which actually increased the risk of infection, the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases admitted that SHIV, an artificial virus, meant to mimic the human virus but capable of infecting animals, really doesn't predict that well at all.

Any 'in-house' inquiries into animal testing led by vivisectors, ex-vivisectors or people with interests in companies associated with vivisection are hardly transparent, impartial and independent.

The truth is that thousands of drugs passed as safe in animals have been withdrawn or banned due to their effect on human health, while vivisection inflicts diseases and illnesses artificially in healthy animals, which is not remotely similar to how humans contract these diseases and illnesses in the first place.

Cures for cancer, childhood diseases, HIV and other problems depend on moving away from misleading animal experiments to real science and research.

GN Collins, Canterbury

How to cure cruelty

It is a pity Tom Holder (Letters, last week) did not produce accurate facts about animal testing. You can use millions of animals until time immemorial, but the fact is we are a different species and the first human that takes any drug produced by man is a tester of the product.

If progress against disease has been made over time via animal testing, arguably it would have manifested anyway without such testing, as nature moves us on and forward.

We will not be allowed to top nature, for as sure as one illness is cured we find another in the wings to keep us in place.

Rather than relying on animal testing, all of us should have more informed education from childhood via parents and schooling about being responsible for our own health through diet, exercise, relaxation, etc. Quoting statistics about how many say this or how many say that on animal testing is a hollow gesture; mere numbers.

I could as easily quote figures in the other direction, but it is pointless and achieves no end.

That we, as humans, believe we can apportion whatever our minds devise for animals has to be born of an indescribable arrogance and brings shame on us all by complicity.

Animals do not belong to us to wear, eat, kill, maim, torture or abuse in any other fashion we can invent. We share this planet with all of creation.

It begs the question that if the animals are exterminated (and we are certainly hurtling towards that end) then man will simply turn on fellow man.

I refer readers to www.curedisease.net and www.drhadwentrust.net.org. And Mr Holder and others may find the book The Extended Circle, a Dictionary of Humane Thought, edited by Jon Wynne-Tyson, of interest.

Jan Martinez, Alkham, near Dover

A timetable for chaos

I think Liberal Democrat Keith Nevols is in the wrong party if he wants to see road improvements (Letters, last week).

His leader Nick Clegg said in February that he would like to see the Highways Agency budget for 2010-11 cut from £1.2 billion to £220 million.

Lib Dems also would like to see road charging, workplace parking charging, increased road tax and all parking based on CO_2 outputs.

He blames KCC for the state of our roads, but would any of the above policies improve matters?

His party would like to see all our lives governed and controlled by a bus/train timetables. No thanks.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Defending democracy

Few would dispute that the revelations of the past couple of weeks have been unhealthy for democracy.

However, we all know voting is a tremendous gift. People in other countries actually fight and die for this right that we take for granted and we must never surrender our right to speak our mind via the vote.

That is because we really care about the future of this country, we wouldn't want democracy to become a thing of the past, we appreciate the right to freedom of speech, we want politicians to know that they are accountable and we want to set a good example to children and young people.

European and local election day is June 4. I and my colleagues have been listening to what people are saying on the doorstep. They are telling us that it is important what happens in their town and that there is stong and reliable leadership. They are telling us that it is important what happens in Europe. That they do want to be part of Europe but not controlled by Europe. They want a single market but no further enlargement and controlled immigration. That they want a referendum on the Lisbon treaty and they want to keep the pound. They are also telling me that above all, they want a general election.

Gordon Brown has presided over one of the worst periods in the history of British politics and so I urge people to turn out and vote on June 4 and I urge Gordon Brown to call a general election. Now.

Cllr Julie Rook (Con), Deal

Europe needs Britain

On June 4 we can vote for candidates seeking election to the European Parliament. We must not let the opportunity pass by.

Understandably, many people are now feeling angry and unhappy with some of our national politicians. But it is important that we ignore advice from certain quarters to abstain from the European elections so as to record disenchantment. That would leave the field open for the extremists (already likely to prosper on the back of rising unemployment and financial hardship) to pursue aims which are, in many cases, fundamentally undemocratic.

Little of the party political broadcasts, or literature coming through our letterboxes, has anything to say about the work of the Parliament or what policies at European level candidates would pursue. Yet, contrary to the impression that might be gained from parts of the national media and, sad to relate, from the two main political parties, the European Parliament is of great importance to us. Much of the law affecting various aspects of our lives is passed in the Parliament. And, in many ways, it is, the citizens' voice in the European Union.

All of us should be concerned that the EU should have an effective role in trade negotiations, in the regulation of financial markets, in consumer safety, in combating climate change, and in the prevention of terrorism. Demand candidates' views on these matters and vote accordingly.

Dr Alan Bullion, chairman, European Movement, west Kent, Tunbridge Wells

Which tariff is which?

If you are baffled by your energy bills you're in good company – seven in 10 of us find the number of tariffs available confusing.

And it's not surprising. Consumer magazine Which? has found that there are more than 4,000 available. Working out how to get the best deal a minefield. Which? wants Ofgem, the energy regulator, and the Government to simplify energy bills and tariffs. Only when they are more transparent will be it easier for us to cut energy usage, save money and lower carbon emissions. Tell your MP what you think about energy bills and tariffs at www.which.co.uk/energyaction before May 29, and get your opinion heard by Ofgem.

Louise Hanson, head of campaigns, Which?

Letters continued on page 59

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By JANE JEWITT

Ways to cut back on losing loved plants

DID you lose any plants last winter? I know I did, and I feel rather puzzled, as some survived when the books say they shouldn't, while others died when they should have been fine. That is one of the joys of gardening, never being totally in control.

Now is the time to take cuttings of perennials and shrubs. It is an insurance policy against suffering any more losses next winter.

To take a softwood cutting look for the fresh, new growth, the bright green, and often quite brittle young shoots. Choose a shoot that is at least 10cm, four inches in length, without any flower buds. Gently break the shoot off back at the main stem or cut an appropriate length.

Before taking any cuttings you have to do a little housework. Good hygiene is the most important part of the process as you have to use perfectly clean pots. I clean mine in a weak solution of bleach, rinse well and allow them to dry. Ensure your watering can is clean also. Take a look at what collects in a watering can that has been left outside over the winter; it is a microcosm of life. It is a good idea to keep a watering can for indoor and greenhouse plants only, and clean it regularly.

To ensure my compost is very free-draining I mix up one third each general purpose compost, sharp sand and perlite. Fill the pots with compost, firming it down gently, place the pots in a shallow tray of water to allow the compost to soak up water. Then use a dibber or lolly stick to ease the cuttings into the compost.

Keep the cuttings moist; some trickier cuttings need their own personal misting system. The easy way to achieve this is to cover the pot with a plastic bag, propped up with short sticks to keep the plastic from touching the cuttings. If you have a large number of pots Heath Robinson could be very helpful, with ideas to help you fashion some sort of dome over the pots.

Label the pots using a permanent marker pen and place them in a cool spot, out of direct sunlight. Check them regularly, ensuring that they are kept moist and free from slugs and snails.

Shrubs that are easy to root from softwood cuttings include Ceanothus, Buddleja, Hydrangea, some Clematis, Wisteria, Abelia and Abutilon.

If the leaves are large simply cut them in half.

Perennials are growing fast at this time of year, and you can take tip cuttings from good strong shoots without flower buds. Penstemon, Osteospermum, Salvia, Verbena, Dianthus, Diasca and Pelargoniums are all easy to root from cuttings.

You can try to take a cutting of anything at all, don't be put off if the books tell you that great skill is needed. If it is your favourite plant, you are bound to give it that little bit of extra attention and that could be all it needs to make it grow.

CUTTING TIPS: Osteospermum (left) and Buddleja (above) are easy to re-grow from cuttings with just a little forward planning

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Grow to love your smaller garden in 10 simple steps

By HANNAH STEPHENSON

SMALLER gardens are the talk of Chelsea Flower Show this year as several big sponsors have pulled out because of the credit crunch, so it's timely that Chelsea veteran and award-winning designer Andrew McIndoe has been contemplating the easiest ways to downsize.

"Leaving a garden that you have created and enjoyed to downsize to a smaller plot is difficult, and it would be all too easy to be negative about change and to hang on to the past," says McIndoe, designer of the Hillier exhibit, which holds the unprecedented record of 63 consecutive gold medals at Chelsea.

Now he has written a book, Losing The Plot, for people who want or need to downsize, for whatever reason, and offers the following top-10 tips:

1. See this as an opportunity to start afresh with a blank canvas. Do not try to replicate your previous garden on a smaller scale – it rarely works. Design a new garden to meet your needs.

2. Do not attempt to dig up lots of plants and take them with you if you move. Yes, there are bound to be one or two old friends you will want to keep, but limit yourself to those that will move successfully.

3. Make any radical changes at the outset. Tired old paving does not improve with age, it gets worse. If you need to install or replace fences and buildings, do it at the beginning before you start planting.

4. Plan or redesign your garden from where you will see it most – usually from the windows of the house. This will influence where you put features and utilities, and will ensure that you can enjoy your garden throughout the year.

5. Choose plants that work hard to earn

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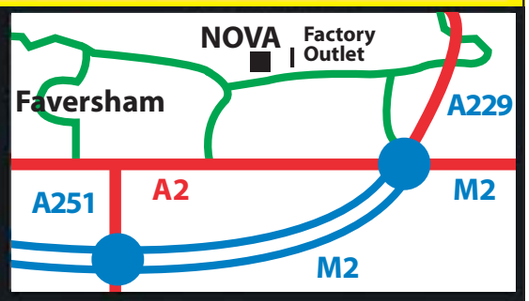

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their keep, which have more than one season of interest and need little attention. Of course you can allow yourself a few guilty pleasures, but it is those good old evergreen garden stalwarts that hold the planting scheme together.

6. Keep an open mind to radical ways of gardening. You do not have to have a lawn. You do not have to grow roses. A raised bed or two might make life easier. It might be fun to grow a few vegetables in containers, even if you have never bothered with them before.

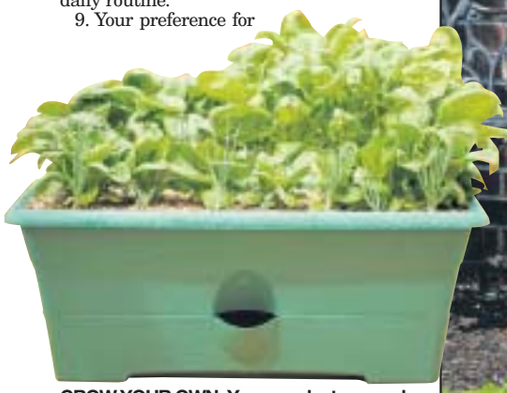
7. Make use of pots and containers and consider more permanent planting. Seasonal bedding plants need replacing twice during the year to maintain all-year-round interest. Limit bulbs and bedding plants to a few pots and group them with other permanently planted ones.

8. Consider somewhere to sit and enjoy the garden. You need a comfortable seat or set of furniture somewhere accessible and ready to use in nice weather. Treat yourself. It will make morning coffee, afternoon tea or evening drinks in the garden part of your daily routine.

9. Your preference for certain plants changes over the years. If there is something you have always wanted to grow, now is your chance. A new horticultural challenge will rekindle your passion for plants.

10. Take a firm line with gifts of plants from neighbours, friends and family. If you do not like it, want it, or it does nothing for your garden, do not plant it. Gardens are easily filled up with well-meaning offerings of rampant perennials and inferior occasion roses.

• Losing The Plot, by Andrew McIndoe, is published by AA, priced £17.99. Available from www.hillier.co.uk and AA Publishing at www.theaa.com/bookshop and from good bookshops.



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Peony is available as a dinner service, a coffee and a tea service, and prices range from £83.60 for a coffee cup and saucer to £183.90 for a large serving plate.

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See www.herend.com.

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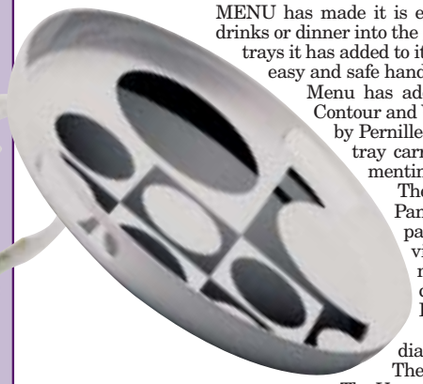

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Menu has added two great melamine trays to its Black Contour and Verner Panton ranges: Black Contour created by Pernille Vea represents pure Scandinavian style. The tray carries the playfully weaving black line complimenting all the other products in the range.

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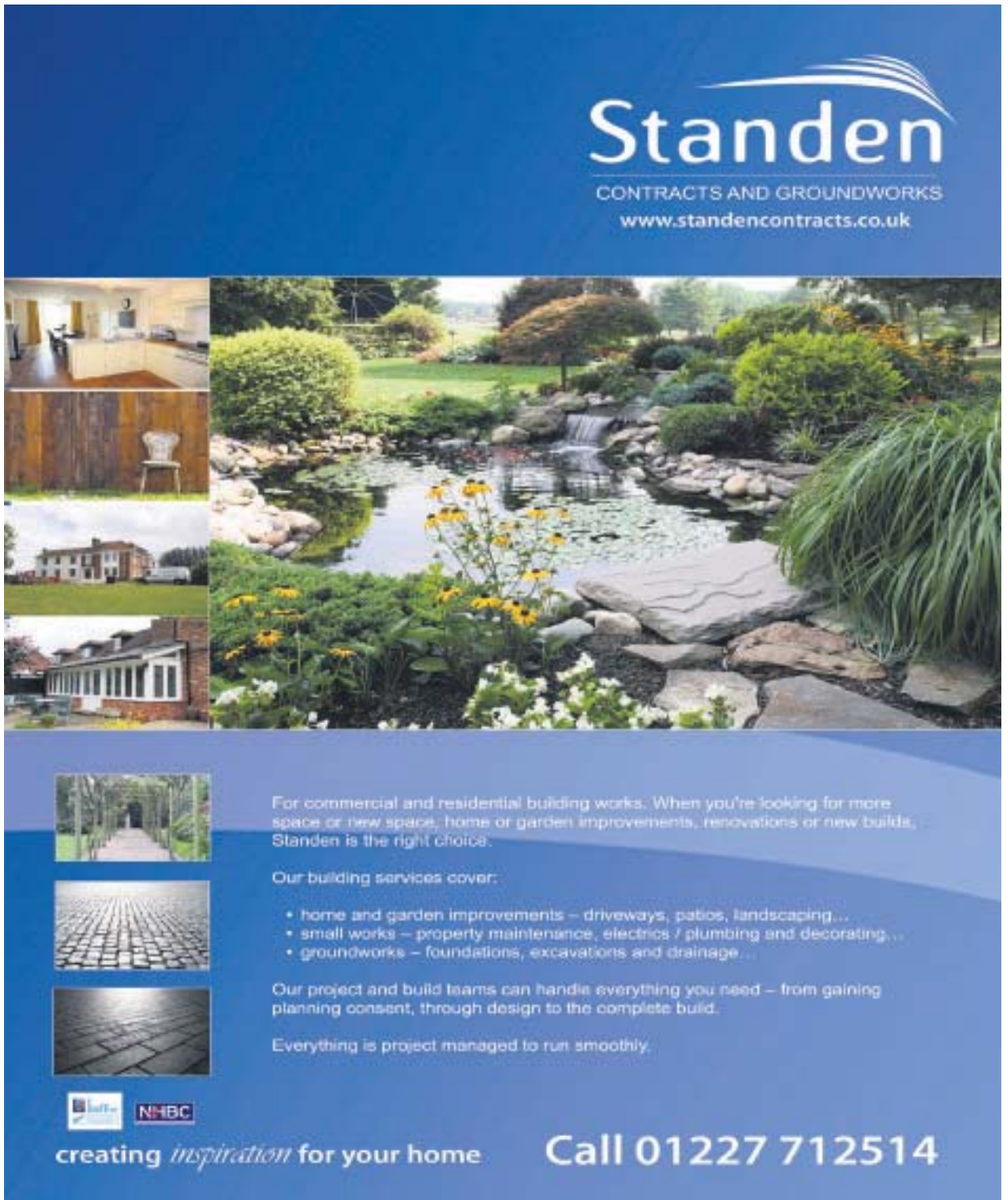
Both trays are in black and white, 40cm in diameter and made from melamine.

The Black Contour tray retails at £29.95.

The Verner Panton tray retails at £34.95.

See www.menu.as.



Interior designer, Helle Hylleberg answers readers' design dilemmas

Q I am in dire need of an office space at home. The only room I have for this is a corridor leading from our lounge to the kitchen. Ideally, I need two seats, as we also need a space for the family computer. Can you help?

Michael, Broadstairs

A Start by putting in a work top along the wall. You can divide the space by adding cupboard/drawers underneath allowing for the two spaces you need. It need not be an expensive exercise and it is a good way of using the space you have already got. Try and keep it a neutral colour – or white and then add colours in your accessories.

Q My husband and I really enjoy flea markets – but sadly none of us have got much knowledge on how to restore furniture. Could you give us some advice how to revive old lacquered furniture?

Hannah, Rye

A If you buy old furniture of really good quality, you can polish them with vaseline – you will be surprised at how fresh and new they will look.

Q My garden needs sprucing up with nice pots. I don't have a budget for it, so would appreciate a cheap way to go about this?

Alice, Canterbury

A You can get great results with cleaning up your old pots. In fact they might have more character than new ones. Get your old tester pots and any old paints you might have and use a sponge to paint them. Let them dry inbetween applying a new layer. You might find that some will look more interesting with just one layer. Alternatively, to get that antique French look, you can use eggwhites – also applied with a sponge. Happy painting!

If you have any questions you'd like to ask Helle, email helle@scin.co.uk or post them, marked Homes & Gardens Q & A, to KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

HeLar interior solutions

A window of opportunity to sell

WITH annual house price growth at a record low, Kent-based double glazing specialist, Britelite Windows, is offering a buy now, pay later service to increase the value of your home and beat the housing market slump.

March, 2009, saw the number of properties up for sale in the UK at an all-time high. In Kent alone, more that 11,654 properties are currently up for sale*. This puts further pressure on Kent homeowners already desperate to sell at the asking price.

According to The National Association of Estate Agents (NAEA), the number of properties currently on estate agent books has increased by 29.4 per cent in the last year, making it truly a buyers' market.

In such a tough environment, Kent property owners are looking to home improvements to increase house prices and put them ahead of the local competition.

Britelite Windows' range of doors, windows and conservatories provides many benefits to attract would-be homebuyers.

New windows and doors can greatly improve security thanks to Britelite's insurance-approved security locks, fitted as standard. They can reduce noise pollution, an attractive feature if the property is near a busy main road.

Double glazing products also have an environmental saving; reducing heating bills by up to £140 per year** and giving the house a higher rating in its Home Information Pack.

Finally, a Britelite conservatory adds usable space to any home, increasing the size and, therefore, value of the property.

With its buy now, pay later scheme, Britelite is also making it easy for people to add double glazing improvements to their homes.

With a range of flexible and low interest payment schemes, Britelite hopes to help Kent homeowners beat the housing slump and get the market fired up this spring.

Dominic Baxter for Britelite says: "Despite the credit crunch there has never been a better time to invest in your home and help it achieve the sale value it deserves.

"Our extensive range of quality double glazing products suits any home and can be fitted with minimal fuss and disruption in a matter of hours. So in just a few hours your home could be the next hot property in your area."

• ***For more information contact Simon Bourn or Simon Clubley 01233 713852.***

** Figures from homeandproperty.co.uk.*

*** Statistics from The Energy Saving Trust.*

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Get top designer

Above, Billy bookcase combination, from £221.20 at Ikea; Top left, lead crystal lamp with 25cm white parchment shade, £195 by Christopher Wray

By GABRIELLE FAGAN

WE all love creating our own look for our rooms, relying on our taste and imagination to guide us.

But designers also play a key role, not just by influencing the way we furnish our interiors, but by producing their homeware ranges to make high-quality style available on the high street.

Karen Stylianides, deputy editor of House Beautiful, which features 20 top designers in its June issue, says: "Even in these hard economic times it's possible to celebrate great design in our rooms thanks to the work of people like Sir Terence Conran, Kelly Hoppen, Cath Kidston and a host of others."

Those top interior experts give their tips on creating a stylish home on a budget.

Flat-pack genius

• Designer Gillis Lundgren helped Ikea to change the way we shop for furniture by inventing the flat-pack, and also designed the best-selling Billy bookcase which celebrates its 30th birthday this year.

Today, there are 18 Ikea stores in the UK as well as an online shop, all crammed with well-designed and affordable pieces.

Ikea's interior design expert Mikeal Berryman suggests: "Start on a low-cost makeover by rolling up your sleeves and clearing out your clutter, then work out where you could most use new storage."

Karen suggests: "Create a stunning display with a neat row of inexpensive vases. Unite the display by choosing the same colour or material, ie a row of glass vases."

Get the look: Ikea's latest PS collection includes the Selma easy chair, £249, and Veranda bed, £549. Billy bookcase, £47.96, and Billy combination, from £221.20.

Queen of Vintage

• Her love of nostalgic design led Cath Kidston to open her first shop selling vintage fabrics, wallpapers and junk furniture in 1993.

Inspired by its success, she went on to create her own wallpaper, bed linen and tableware, making it easy for homeowners to add vintage charm to a room.

Kidston's tip: "Update a wall by painting it with gloss paint or by covering wallpaper with a gloss varnish. This gives a practical finish that's easy to keep clean.

"A patterned oilcloth, an easy way to add colour to a room, is a practical tablecloth choice for everyday dining."

Karen suggests: "Team a new roller or Roman blind, in a fabric chosen to complement your scheme, with existing curtains to give windows an instant new look."

Get the look: Antique Rose Bouquet wallpaper was one of Kidston's first designs and is £22 a roll. Her new summer camping range includes a floral tepee, £100.

Shine a light

• Lighting pioneer Christopher Wray discovered a passion for vintage lamps in his 20s and now has three shops in the UK and an online store.

His tip: "Search the clearance departments of stores for designer lighting and furniture at affordable prices that will add style to your home."

Karen says: "Give an old lamp base a quick transformation with a new shade – pleated silk is a key trend this summer – or cover an old shade in a new fabric."

Get the look: Lead crystal table lamp with white parchment shade, £125, from Christopher Wray.

Hoppen's Homes

• Kelly Hoppen has long been known for her iconic blend of East and West style, and her interpretation of neutrals.

Her books, paint range, lighting and accessories have inspired the trend for understated luxury, with texture and beautiful lighting making off-white, cream and grey a stunning combination.

Hoppen's tip: "Plug gaps in your bookshelves with glass vases filled with inexpensive and long-lasting silk flowers."

Karen suggests: "Add interest to neutral walls with framed black and white photographs. Buy inexpensive frames on the high street and fill with favourite family portraits."

Get the look: Kelly Hoppen's paint range, The Perfect Neutrals from Craig & Rose. Look out for Limestone matt acrylic paint, £19.99 for 2.5 litres.

Conran's Content

• Sir Terence Conran's simple, modern style looks just as fresh today as it did when he began designing in the 1960s and founded Habitat in 1964, bringing contemporary style to the high street.

His elegant Content by Conran furniture and tableware for Royal Doulton continues to offer simple style that's affordable.

Sir Terence's tip: "Vary the height of your lights, use dimmers and try bouncing light off walls and ceilings in different parts of the

looks at high street prices

room to create a greater sense of space."

Karen suggests: "Invest in classic furniture designs that are made to last – you can often pick up bargains in second-hand stores, auctions or clearance stores."

Get the look: Kendal storage unit, from £475, Coniston three-seater sofa, from £2,125, armchair, from £1,345, all by Content by Conran.

White Rules

• Chrissie Rucker founded The White Company in 1994, starting as a tiny mail order company, after realising there were few sources for top-quality natural fabrics in neutral shades.

Her mail-order catalogue and shops now offer everything from furniture to candles.

Rucker's tip: "Even something as simple and affordable as a scented candle can make a real difference to your room. Don't forget hidden spaces – use lavender sachets on hangers in cupboards, line drawers with scented drawer liners."

Karen suggests: "Add baking soda to normal detergent when washing your whites, hang them outside, to ensure they stay bright."

Get the look: White fig scented candle, £25, Corsica double bedspread, £195, mohair throw, £50, all from The White Company.

Blooming Marvellous

• Innovative floral designer Paula Pryke pioneered the combination of bright colours and stunning design, using spiky leaves and foliage mixed with jewel-coloured flowers.

Her inspirational ideas, which feature in her book Simply Pink, are easy to achieve, ideal for everyday use or displays for special occasions and a great way to bring the outdoors in.

Pryke's tip: "Buy supermarket herbs and replant in pretty pots as an instant summer table decoration, which also means they're handy for use in cooking."

And Karen says: "Mix in sprigs of greenery from your garden to make a floral bouquet look more generous, and stand floral displays next to a mirror to enhance the effect or surround a vase with a circle of tea lights."

Get the look: Gift floral displays, such as the Rose, Germini and Berry Posy in a Lemon Vase, £75 plus delivery from Paula Pryke.

Paint Power

• Farrow & Ball, founded in the 1930s by two chemists, is renowned for its authentic heritage shades and quality paint ranges.

It currently has 132 different paint colours including new eco-friendly formulations, and 16 wallpaper designs in more than 800 colourways.

Sarah Cole, director of Farrow & Ball, says: "Paint remains the easiest way to transform a room, and a relatively inexpensive one at that.

"Strong warm tones are a major theme this season, balanced by more neutral colours. Our top tips for 2009 are nature-inspired shades, from pale coastal blues to dark earthy browns."

Karen suggests: "Use leftover wallpaper to cover the inside of cupboards, shelves or in alcoves for a stylish effect."

Get the look: The new Lotus Papers collection with two pattern sizes, £71.50 a roll.

Above, Content by Conran furniture: Coniston sofa, from £2,125 and Armchair from £1,345; right, Antique Rose Bouquet wallpaper, £22 a roll, by Cath Kidston

Lotus block print wallpaper, £71.50 a roll, from Farrow & Ball

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May on the plot

BLACKFLY ON BROAD BEANS

Blackfly can completely devastate a crop of broad beans at this time of year. They are the great enemy of broads. At flowering time masses of these irritating sap-sucking pests can descend on a crop and extract the life out of the beans as they form. It does not happen every year but Dirty Nails has suffered such heartbreak, and tries a number of ways to avoid this problem.

In years when blackfly is rife, he pinches out the growing tips of his plants and burns them. This removes the tenderest bit which the blackfly like best. For other affected areas, he makes up a weak washing-up liquid and water dilution and dispenses this with a hand-held mist sprayer. He does this on a daily basis but it is not always satisfactory. The most successful tactic Dirty Nails has used to beat blackfly is to sow broad beans direct into the ground during November. This way a variety such as 'Aquadulce' will grow on slowly throughout the winter months and produce pods for picking a fortnight or so earlier than a spring-sown crop. The important thing is that autumn-sown broads are usually productive before blackfly are a problem. If they do clash, the advanced state of growth renders these broads more able to withstand attack.

In some years Dirty Nails has had to write off his spring-sown Witkiem. All is not lost however, as elsewhere on the veg plot Aquadulce is already feeding the family and there is hardly a blackfly in sight.

NURSERY BEDS

'Nursery beds' bridge the gap between seedling and developing young adult; areas of the veg patch set aside for nursing seedlings through pricking-out from trays to planting-out in the main plot. Hardy crops like brassicas (the 'cabbage tribe') and leeks are classic benefactors from this system of husbandry, where small plants can be lovingly nurtured through their tenderest stages under a close and watchful eye. A high density of veggies is cultivated in this small area, with careful attention paid to weed control and watering. In many respects this process is like potting-on into a larger container (which is a method Dirty Nails uses to bring-on his courgettes and squashes before nestling them into the ground as soon as the risk of frost has passed).

Handling at all times must be done with a deft touch. Seedlings are especially vulnerable to damage and bruising. Light manoeuvring, only holding the leaves, is essential, and roots should be kept as intact as possible. By the time they are ready to move on they should be tough little customers. None-the-less, a considered fork must be skilfully employed to loosen and lift the roots. With leeks, Dirty Nails gathers them up in bunches and wraps his charges in damp newspaper to bridge the gap between nursery and main bed.

• **How to Grow Your Own Food by Dirty Nails (ISBN 9781905862115) is available from www.dirty-nails.co.uk or Amazon, rrp £10.99.**

PESTS: There are some tried-and-tested methods to tackle blackfly which love to attack beans (above left); protecting leek seedlings (above right); and right broad bean flowers

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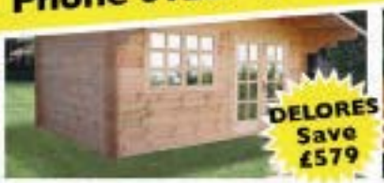

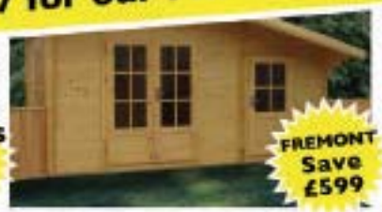

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LIVINGOUT

Letters continued from page 46

Really up the junction

I am in despair at the Conservatives running Kent County Council.

While the majority of the roads in the Dartford borough are a disgrace, potholes and craters being the norm, KCC has just wasted hundreds of thousands of pounds of our money on roadworks at the Princes Road/Shepherds Lane junction and effectively made the situation worse.

I cannot believe we actually pay these so-called experts to come up with this stupidity.

As one who has used this junction for years, the slip road from Princes Road into Shepherds Lane to the Heath worked brilliantly.

They have now put it back into two lanes as it was maybe 30 years ago. These Tories, not content with losing £50 million in the Icelandic banks, now waste our money on crazy road schemes but do nothing about the potholes in all the other roads.

The way these fools spend our money, Kent would be better off if they stood on the roof of County Hall and just threw our hard-earned money into the air.

Mike Tibby, chairman, English Democrats, Dartford

Why hunting is history

Reading reports on new national guidelines for police enforcement of the Hunting Act made me wonder how many journalists actually read the guidelines before simply re-hashing the pro-hunting spin released by the Countryside Alliance and other bloodsports fanatics.

The guidance issued by the Association of Police Chief Officers rightly points out that while hunting is not a top priority, it is still the law of the land and therefore it is their duty to enforce this law. This is very different from claims that police believe the law to be unenforceable and therefore will no longer be policing it.

Let us not forget there have been almost 70 prosecutions under the Act in the four years since it came into force, and more are in the pipeline with summons in new cases issued just last week.

What was also recognised in the guidelines is the effort and commitment from organisations such as the League Against Cruel Sports in training professional monitors to work closely with the police on this issue. These people work tirelessly, often in the face of both verbal and physical abuse, to ensure the Hunting Act, which is supported by 75 per cent of the population, is effectively enforced.

The bottom line is that the Hunting Act is the law of the land and no-one – not even a hunter – is above that.

Douglas Batchelor, Chief Executive, League Against Cruel Sports

Ban circus animals

Animals don't belong in a circus. The constant transportation from town to town for 10 months each year and confinement for long periods means that a travelling circus can never meet all of the needs of these animals, whether elephants, lions, tigers or horses.

Claims by circuses that animals are stimulated by performances are false. In fact, the same tricks are generally repeated for years. Animals are trained away from the scrutiny of the public, politicians or welfare groups.

Undercover investigations at circuses in the UK have revealed animals beaten with sticks, bars and whips and sick animals hidden from the RSPCA.

There is no educational value in seeing these once-proud animals reduced to performing tricks in an unnatural environment. Circuses teach a lack of respect for animals.

The Captive Animals' Protection Society is not opposed to circuses, only to the use of animals, and we encourage people to avoid animal circuses and instead visit one of the many excellent shows that rely entirely on human skills.

We also ask people to write to their MP, asking them to encourage the Government to ban the use of animals in circuses.

Circuses yes, animals no.

Paul Thomas, Campaigner, Captive Animals' Protection Society

Stop the EU superstate

Several new political parties have been formed to fight in the forthcoming European elections, their only achievement will be to divide the vote – and maybe that is their aim.

One in particular, Libertas, sounds rather familiar, like: 'In Europe, not run by Europe' – which is an impossible aim. It could also provide a home for Tory leader David Cameron's MEPs.

There is one party and only one party that has, for the last 16 years, been imparting the truth and consequences of our EU membership. It gave the three main parties a big surprise in 2004 and deserves our support again.

When voting in the European elections there is one question and only one question we need to ask ourselves: do we want to be part of the vast European nation? Weakly conforming to every directive, letting the ratchet click on to our final sublimation in a United States of Europe?

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3,000-mile ricksaw race blazed trail across India

By JENNA PUDELEK

AN adventurous PhD student from a Kent university was left "filthy and exhausted" after completing a 3,000-mile race in a rickshaw around India.

Charles Whitfield, who is studying at the University of Greenwich at Medway's Natural Resources Institute, led his team the Blazing Chillies in the two-week long sub-continent competition.

"We crossed the finish line filthy, exhausted, but in one piece," he said. "It was a great adventure, and everywhere we went we seemed to be a source of interest and laughter.

"India was amazing and nearly everyone we met welcomed us.

"The highlights for me were the delicious food, the peaceful villages, and the adrenalin-fuelled drive through the cities."

Mr Whitfield, 27, whose doctorate work involves studying the behaviour of moths, has raised more than £11,000 for Frank Water Projects and SOS Children, which both support orphaned Indian children who live in extreme poverty and without access to safe, clean drinking water.

The Blazing Chillies came sixth out of 50 racers enduring miles of sweaty jungle heat and monsoon rains in the breakdown-prone vehicle before crossing the finishing line.

Mr Whitfield said the team had to navigate across unfamiliar landscapes using baffling maps and a dodgy compass.

But the team became experts at navigating using the sun and only suffered one "minor" four-hour diversion due to a wrong turn, he said.

The Blazing Chillies were also lucky to avoid a major breakdown although the 45°C heat played havoc with the rickshaw's engine.

Over 55s offered courses to become 'silver surfers'

A SPECIALISED centre in Kent is helping people over 55 learn how to master computers and the internet.

The training courses, which are aimed at so-called 'silver surfers', are run from UK Online Centre SES Tutors in Ramsgate.

Helen Milner, head of the company, said: "We want to get as many people as possible to make May a month of 'silver surfing'.

"Whether you want to research a hobby, get in touch with a far-flung relative or friend, manage your photographs, money or do your shopping online, help your grandchildren with homework or just understand what they're talking about, we can help."

A recent survey has found that around 26 per cent of adults in the South East remain offline and half of them are over 55. Call 0800 77 1234 to find out more about the courses.

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PIPING HOT: Annabelle holds cake-making classes at her Confection Perfection shop

Masters diploma icing on the cake for eager students

By JENNA PUDELEK
jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

A MOTHER-OF-TWO has turned her childhood dream into a successful business and is now passing on her cake-making skills to a growing number of eager students.

Annabelle Gheur, who lives in Barming, near Maidstone, is set to become the first person in Kent to offer a masters diploma qualification in cake decorating when the courses launch in September.

"It's really exciting because at the moment the only recognised qualification is a City & Guilds, and for cake decorating you have to go to London," she said.

"PME, manufacturers of cake decorating equipment, have seen there is a huge gap where people want to learn and a lot want to set up their own businesses from home, but there is nothing to help them."

Mrs Gheur's own interest in cakes began when she was only seven years-old and she is still using her grandmother's recipes, which inspired her as a youngster.

Her cake decorating school at her shop, Confection Perfection, in Hildenborough, has been providing classes since 2000.

Demand for spaces on the courses has grown so great that she has recently opened new premises in Barming with a specially built training area for her students.

The 37-year-old said: "People have been coming from miles away because there is nowhere else to go. That we have been able to open a second shop in the current downturn is brilliant. I think people enjoy really achieving something.

"It is about learning and achieving, which is a huge motivation. People want to do things themselves. We've been through mass producing everything the same and we have come out the other side and people want something they have made or has been made specially for them."

Mrs Ghuer's life has not always been so sweet. She worked for Maidstone Borough Council and had two sons aged six and four when her husband walked out.

As a newly single mother, she began decorating cakes for her friends' children as a way of supplementing the family's income.

It proved such a success that she was able to open the shop in 2000, and after customers kept asking for her cake-making advice she decided to run training courses and has not looked back since.

She said that demand for her courses is not just from women of a certain age, but includes men and a range of age groups from pensioners to teenagers.

"There is a lot of doom and gloom at the moment. From my point of view – and I know others that are doing well too – the people that are offering an honest service at a fair price are fine and doing really well."

The new masters qualification has three modules, which include sugar paste, icing and piping and sugar flowers, that can be sat separately or together.

The course costs £130 for each module. For more information see www.confectionperfection.co.uk.

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JobsforKent.co.uk

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TO ADVERTISE: TELEPHONE: **01303 817040** | FAX: **01303 817004** | EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

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ST WERBURGH MEDICAL PRACTICE

98 Bells Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent, ME3 9HU
Tel: 01634 250523

PART-TIME EXPERIENCED DISPENSER WITH RECEPTIONIST SKILLS REQUIRED

GP Dispensing Practice 20 hours per week Mon-Fri, NVQ level 2 qualification in dispensing essential. Must be able to work without supervision and have own transport.
Must be willing to cover holidays and sickness.
Closing date: 19 June 2009
Contact: Mrs Julie Allen – Julie.allen@nhs.net

B & D Specialist Cars

require a

MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN

for our busy Service Department

Successful applicant will be fully skilled and conversant with modern vehicle diagnostic and repair techniques.
Good salary for the right person
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Please apply to Bob Musson on 01303 264700 or to 22/25 Range Road Industrial Estate, Hythe, Kent CT21 6HG

Meals Delivery Driver Required

5 days over 7, 11am-1.30pm, will include some weekends and will involve some kitchen tasks. Extra hours may be available to the right applicant if required.
A full clean driving license is essential.
Please apply by e-mail to carol@chivescaterers.co.uk or in writing to
Chives the Caterers
Whitgift Court, Fisher Road, Canterbury CT2 8JJ

PUBLIC RELATIONS SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

(MATERNITY LEAVE COVER)

We are looking for an experienced PR professional with excellent writing and client-facing skills, able to work to tight deadlines as well as having great organisational abilities and bundles of enthusiasm and creativity. Some experience in event management would be an asset.

Please send your CV and salary required to Becky Lander at Adams Creative. becky@adamscreative.co.uk

2 Albion Place
Maidstone
Kent ME14 5DY
www.adamscreative.co.uk

adams creative

parry law

Have another exciting opportunity for a

LEGAL SECRETARY

to join their Support Team.

If you want to work in a thriving, progressive environment and relish a challenge please apply in writing and send your CV to:

Kate Teasdale
12/14 Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DE
The closing date for applications is
1 June 2009
www.parrylaw.co.uk

CAUTLEY HOUSE

Haven of love & healing in a Christian environment

House Team Member

Short term placement with possible extension. Flexible approach / Sense of humour / enjoying working in a team under the supervision of the Housekeeper

Please ring the Administrator to arrange a weekend visit. £80 per 40 hour week plus bed & board.

95 Seabrook Road,
Hythe, Kent CT21 5QY

01303 230762

Senior Electrical Building Services Design Engineer

A senior electrical design engineer is required to take up a position in this small consulting engineering practice based in Ashford, Kent.

The ideal applicant will be experienced in all aspects of the electrical consulting design process from conception to completion and be competent using both CAD and industry standard electrical design software.

Applications should be made in writing in the first instance including an up to date CV to:-
Mr. S Nixon, Steven Nixon Associates,
1 Caxton House, Wellesley Road,
Ashford, Kent TN24 8ET

BAYADA NURSES

Considered a Change of Career?

We are now recruiting for
HEALTHCARE ASSISTANTS & REGISTERED NURSES
• Maidstone • Tonbridge • Tunbridge Wells • Sevenoaks
Our core values are
Compassion, Excellence and Reliability

We also provide staff to Nursing Homes and Private Hospitals

Employees receive:

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- Full time/Part time/ 24-hour working shifts
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- Investment in your development
- Reward your successes
- 24-hour support

If you are over 18 years of age and are eligible to undertake paid work in the UK
Call Julie Epsley on: 01732 523442
or email: info@bayada.co.uk

nacro

changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies:

TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)

£21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme.

You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre.

TRAINER

£19,658 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We hold contracts for Entry to Employment (e2e) and Schools to deliver programmes which engage and develop young people in order that they may progress into Employment, Training or Further Education.

We are looking for an individual to join our staff team who is enthusiastic, lively and creative. You will be someone with experience/qualifications in Personal and Social areas preferably childcare and/or health so that we can expand our programme for young people. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre.

We are opening our new Pathways Centre in Chatham and are looking for the following staff:

CONSTRUCTION TRAINER

£19,658 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We are looking for a skilled craftsman (preferably with some brick work skills), to join our successful construction team to deliver training and assess learners to ensure that they meet the required standards as lay down by awarding bodies.

PROJECT WORKER/ADMIN SUPPORT

£21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift)

We are looking for a motivated individual to work with the Construction Development Officer and team providing administration and also liaising with referring agencies, work experience placements and funding bodies. You need to have excellent administration and communication skills.

ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE

Salary: £85 per week

Nacro are seeking to recruit an Administration Apprentice to provide administrative assistance to support the Project Worker/Admin in the new Construction Building. This will include general office duties including answering the telephone, Faxing, Filing, Photocopying and to assist with some data imports

Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack.

Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process.
Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171

BETHANY LODGE

Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch
requires a

WEEKEND COOK

8am – 2pm Saturday and Sunday
£7.77 per hr. (£93.24 per week-end) Gross
To join our team caring for young people with disabilities.
Rewarding and friendly environment.
Tel: 01303 872289
for more information and application form
All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check

MARKETING AND SALES ASSISTANT

We are looking for an organised, well presented team player with strong communication skills to support our fast paced business development team. You will be highly conscientious and motivated with a 'can do' attitude. Experience in telemarketing and lead generation is essential.

Please send your CV and salary required to Becky Lander at Adams Creative. becky@adamscreative.co.uk

2 Albion Place
Maidstone
Kent ME14 5DY
www.adamscreative.co.uk

adams creative

HAZEL MOTORS

Require

Skilled Mechanic/ MOT tester

Please send your CV to
Hazel Motors, 271-287 Dale Street,
Chatham, Kent ME4 6QR
or call 01634 406664
Email info@hazelmotors.co.uk

LITTLESTONE GOLF CLUB

HOUSE MANAGER

Littlestone is a traditional private members club and enjoys one of the finest links courses in the south of England. The provision of the best possible bar, catering and functions service for members and guest alike is of paramount importance.

This is an opportunity for a strong leader with a background in ensuring excellent customer service with consistently high standards in food and beverage operations. The ability to work on your own initiative and interact well with members and motivate a small staff team is vital. The role includes liaison with suppliers, co-ordinating functions, achieving sales and profit targets and you will provide a strong front of house presence.

Attractive salary.

COOK/CHEF

We manage two club house catering operations and require an experienced cook to work in both, based at the Warren but also assisting with functions at Littlestone. No split shifts and hours by arrangement.

Applications in writing to The General Manager, Littlestone Golf Club, St Andrews Road, Littlestone, Kent TN28 8RB
Or email secretary@littlestonegolfclub.org.uk

Cartel Client Review

OUTSTANDING OPPORTUNITY

£66,000 OTE

Previous sales experience not required. Full & Part Time positions available. This is a fantastic opportunity for an ambitious, motivated individual who is dedicated to offering a totally unique service to help their clients.

For further information call **John Blackman**, Cartel Client Representative, on: **01304 219218** or email: **john.blackman@cartelreview.co.uk**
Positions available throughout the UK
www.claimsreviewpeople.co.uk

(A trading style of Cartel Client Review)

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We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information.

Please contact: **01227 362510** or Email: **info@benecarefostering.co.uk**
Web: **www.benecarefostering.co.uk**

BROADHAM CARE LTD

Broadham Care Ltd is offering exciting career opportunities for experienced care staff at their residential care home for adults with learning disabilities in **Dover**.

SUPPORT WORKERS

£6.79 per hour
NVQ level 2 is an advantage
Full and part time available

For more information, or an application please contact:
Broadham Care Ltd on **01883 732211**
or email **HR@broadhamcare.co.uk**
www.broadhamcare.co.uk

Negotiator/Surveyor

required for busy general practice Estate Agents. Needs to be a good all-rounder with experience.

Apply in writing with CV to Norman Coles
Coles & Co, 76 Kings Street, Maidstone ME14 1BH

Fortnightly live-in care posts available, requirements are NVQ2 Care plus a clean driving licence. £800-£1200 per fortnight plus expenses.

Tel: Able Community Care: 01603 281923

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

White Lion
require
Part-Time Chef and Part-Time Waiting Staff
Please call Isaura
Tel: 01227 752211

KOS Media is a highly successful newspaper publisher within Kent, that has received many awards from the newspaper industry for the innovative Kent on Sunday, Kent on Saturday and numerous mid-week newspapers.

We now have vacancies for experienced

Mac Operators

We are looking for experienced, confident and self-motivated team players, preferably with newspaper experience, who are seeking to further their career within the industry.

The individual must have relevant Mac experience including knowledge of Quark, Photoshop and Illustrator. The ability to touch-type would be advantageous.

The candidate should be able to work under pressure, meet strict deadlines and be eager to work within a team environment to ensure the smooth operation of our fast-paced production department.

Hours will be variable and include weekend working.

Previous applicants need not apply.

To apply, send a CV and covering letter to:

Personnel
KOS Media
Apple Barn
Hythe Road, Smeeth
Kent TN25 6SR

or email: personnel@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media
Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

KEEL TOYS LIMITED

-DESIGNERS of QUALITY SOFT TOYS-

Keel Toys

Credit Controller — *9.00am - 5.00pm* — *37.5 hours a week*

Keel Toys Ltd are one of the leading designers and distributors of quality soft toys in Europe with an extensive blue chip customer base. We currently have the following position available.

Credit Controller Full Time 37.5hrs 9 months to cover Maternity Leave

The successful applicant will be working within a small accounts team, responsible for monitoring customer's accounts and actively pursuing the recovery of debts for the company. Ideally, candidates should have previous experience of working within an accounts office. This is a challenging role requiring excellent communication skills and self-motivation. Good working knowledge of excel and word would be an advantage.

In return you will receive a competitive salary and other company benefits.
Please apply in the first instance by sending your Curriculum Vitae including your current salary details.

Julian Drage - Head of Finance
Keel Toys Limited
Ashford Business Park, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SG
Tel:+44 (0)1233 506363 Fax:+44(0)1233 506364 Email: Julian.drage@keeltoys.com

Keel Toys Ltd are an equal opportunities employer.

Hythe Nursing Home
Hythe, Kent
require
HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT
Full/Part-Time
NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT
8pm-8am
Please telephone 01303 265411

PACKER REQUIRED

FOR NORTHFLEET BASED COMPANY

Full time Mon-Friday, no previous experience required as full training will be given.

Apply to keith.hurdle@tube-gear.com or in writing to:
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Unit B1 Springhead Enterprise Park
Springhead Road
Northfleet
Kent DA11 8HB

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A bright future with G Casino...

UK'S LEADING CASINO OPERATOR

As the UK's leading casino operator we are committed to the development of the gaming industry. To do this we are looking for enthusiastic out-going customer focused employees to join us at our state of the art G Casino development at Westwood Cross in Thanet. Since our launch last year we have gone from strength to strength and are now having to extend our hours and take on new staff to cope with our growing popularity. As well as extending our opening hours we are launching our gallery restaurant in the coming weeks and are looking to increase our team in both the gaming and food areas of our business. So why not join our team and be part of a Kent business success story.

SENIOR CHEF

We require a senior chef to work in our new gallery restaurant, this is an exciting opportunity for someone who can lead and motivate a team of food professionals. Creative input on menus and the customer experience will be welcomed as well as long term career prospects of working for a plc.

This position will require the successful candidate to only work one single shift a day (this will be a late hours shift only) five days a week.

The salary is negotiable commensurate with your skills and ability but this is a senior position and you must be able to lead a team.

EXPERIENCED CROUPIERS / CUSTOMER FOCUSED TRAINEE CROUPIERS

Due to our extended opening hours and growing demand we are looking to recruit experienced Croupiers who want to be part of this exciting and growing casino experience. The successful applicants will have a strong customer focus and must be able to work as part of a team.

Salary will be commensurate with your grade, skills and customer service skills. We will consider trainees providing they can demonstrate outstanding customer service as we will put you on a intensive training programme as a Croupier.

CASINO
Westwood Cross
Margate Road,
Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF
01843 579999
www.gcasino.co.uk

To find out more or apply call Deb Armstrong G Casino Administrator 01843 579999 or email your CV with covering letter to: manager_gc-thanet@rank.com or postal applications can be sent to Deb Armstrong G Casino Westwood Cross, Margate Road, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 2BF

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one amazing venue • one great night out

REQUIRED

RGN

Min Experience 2 Years after Registration with NMC
and

RMN

Min Experience 2 Years after Registration with NMC
Good Communication Skills
Full Time - 36 Hours Contract
If Work Permit required, can be arranged
Salary to be negotiated depending on experience

Please contact the Manager for more information:
George Masih
Applecroft Care Home
Sanctuary Close
River, Dover CT17 0ER
Tel: 01304 821331 – Fax: 01304 821551

To advertise in this section

01303 817040

We require part time or full time

COMMUNITY CARE WORKERS

for Ashford and the Marsh
Applicants must have their own vehicle
We offer flexible shifts, which include mornings, evenings and weekends
We provide full training, uniform, equipment, CRB check and weekly pay at good rates.

Please call 01797 361889
E.mail countryfolkcare@hotmail.co.uk
Fax No. 01797 367493

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The smart way to find a job in the County

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Join Kent's award-winning design studio

Designer/Visualiser
Part-time/Full-time

An opportunity has arisen for a creative, self motivated team player who is able to work under pressure to deadline, to join our busy studio department.

You will be expected to have an eye-for-detail and produce innovative visual ideas for new and exsisting clients, along with having the speed and creative edge to design and produce quality finished artwork for our in-house marketing material and online products.

You will need the relevant mac experience with an in-depth knowledge of QuarkXPress, Photoshop and Illustrator. You will also be expected to be flexible within your working hours.

To apply for this position, please send your CV and covering letter, with two examples from your portfolio to:

Anna Harman, Studio Manager, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR.

Or email: anna.harman@kosmedia.co.uk

KOSMediacreative
A DIVISION OF KOS MEDIA LTD DESIGN • PRINT • WEB

KOS media
Award Winning Company

Scott Care

Scott Care Ltd is expanding its current services and has the following vacancies:

Care Workers: To assist service users living in their own homes in Medway, Herne Bay, Canterbury & Whitstable areas. Full time to include mornings, evenings and alternate weekends. Part time evenings and weekends. Experience not essential as comprehensive training will be given. Mileage allowance paid, uniform supplied.

Car & mobile phone essential.
Phone 0845 680 0506
Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm only
www.scottcare.co.uk

Sevenoaks Town Council

Has the following vacancies

1 full time modern apprentice Finance Assistant

1 p/t Finance Assistant 22 1/2 hrs

Experienced Committee Clerk/ Secretary
(full time + some evening meetings)

Experienced Planning Committee Clerk/ Secretary
– 1 year fixed contract (full time + some evening meetings)

Closing date: 29 May 2009

For application and job description
Tel: **01732 459953** Email:**council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk**
www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk

MANN Countrywide

Looking for a challenge?

Trainee Sales Negotiators

Experienced Sales Negotiators / Managers

Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our Sales teams in Medway, Kent.

If you are a high calibre individual with a 'can-do' attitude, good communication skills and of smart appearance then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment.

To find out more please contact:

Human Resources
0800 376 7890 or email your CV to:
shelley.metson@kent.cwea.co.uk

Mann Countrywide is an equal opportunities employer

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A member of Countrywide plc

Merchandiser/ Promotion

As part of the continued expansion of Kosmedia, we are now looking for additional promotion/merchandisers to assist in the marketing of our portfolio of titles across the county.

This is a part time position, and it is anticipated that it will initially involve around 8 hours work split between Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The role will involve calling on newsagents to ensure that our products are getting the best opportunity to be seen by customers, and also to assist at various events where we will be promoting our multi media platforms.

You will need to be of smart appearance, possess good communication skills, and be flexible in terms of the hours required. You will ideally have had some experience in a similar role, but this is not essential as training will be given.

You will need to have your own transport and clean driving license.

Rate of pay is **£7.50 p/h** plus a generous mileage allowance

If you are interested please contact:

Barbara Coker
KOS Media
Apple Barn, Hythe Rd
Smeeth TN25 6SR
01303 817072
Email: barbara.coker@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media
Award Winning Company

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The smart way to find a job in the County

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.
3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.
4. All rates within the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the first date of publication under the signed agreement.
5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any associated third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration tool will be the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.
6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.
7. Copyright and licenses for voice-over/music/photography or film for advertising promotions or otherwise within the various forms of media in print, online and moving film owned by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must have been sought, verified or paid for by the advertiser where applicable. Approval or permissions must have been given by any potential beneficial owner voice-over or music. The advertiser must be able to verify any statements or claims (promotional or otherwise) in relation to their products/services promoted within any of the media offerings belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.
8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements, which remain full pages even after shrinkage.
9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/commercial/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.
10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owners shall not be liable for any loss or damage caused by any error inaccuracy within your marketing content. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by the media owners for that advertising.
11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.
12. Claims for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.
13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.
14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or content on any of the media owner's online digital platforms. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover, in full, all outstanding invoices in relation to the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserves the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.
15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.
16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009) will be recalculated and adjusted accordingly in line with KOS Media's standard media rate card (effective July 2008-June 2009) and will reflect the revised length of commitment denoted by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser as per KOS Media's standard media advertising rate card (July 2008-June 2009). Discounts will be reapplied and any refunds or surcharges will be paid by either party within 30 days of the advertiser's written cancellation. Any other advertising placed must give a minimum of seven days' written notice and any discounts given for series bookings will be forfeited by the advertiser upon cancellation.
17. Seasonal contracts, Your Professional classified advertisements or any uplift advertising within the annual contract with the advertiser will be invoiced in full - at rate card - on receipt of any written cancellation of this contract within the 12-months.
18. All uplift advertisements must be booked in at least three months in advance of publication and will be subject to availability. All dates booked will be on a first-come, first-served basis.
19. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of any online TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement, (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 48 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further TV production at its standard published hourly rate should the advertiser still wish to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Should an advertiser wish to use other voice-overs or non-copyright free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission by the advertiser to replace the TV commercial with pictures or stills from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accepts and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of their membership. Any cost of changes required to the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.
20. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).
21. Any delivery claims made by the advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the public or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from this via KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be met by the advertiser.
22. a. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.
    b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring by the due date, the media owner shall be entitled to suspend all further advertising until payment is received and/or repudiate the contract and make any surcharges for breaking the contract.
    c. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.
    d. Not withstanding anything in these terms and conditions or implied to the contrary, in the event of the Advertiser ceasing to use the services of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.
    e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.
    f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.
23. Any discount which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.
24. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms.
25. All private advertisements and certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.
26. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges falling upon the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal arising from the publication of any advertisement or advertising promotion.
27. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with them.
28. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners belong to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. Advertisers may not reproduce such advertisements without the media owner's written consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from June 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk

KOS media
Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

Innovation
Experience
Excellence

Hadlow College is Kent's premier land-based college and one of the top three such colleges in the United Kingdom.

The College lies in a picturesque part of West Kent, with a 256 hectare campus boasting an enviable array of facilities to enable students to maximise learning and gain realistic experience of the workplace for their future careers.

Lecturer, Horticulture

£22,459 to £30,276 per annum

We are looking to recruit a highly motivated and enthusiastic Lecturer, who will be required to teach and give practical instruction to full and part-time students across a range of Level 1 and 2 Further Education programmes. The successful candidate will need to be educated to Level 3 and have practical experience in the horticulture industry. The role will include an element of Course Management responsibility.

In addition to the minimum requirements detailed above, candidates will ideally have teaching experience in a practical and/or classroom setting together with a teaching qualification or the willingness to work towards one. Candidates will also need to be adaptable, resourceful and resilient, have excellent communication and IT skills and the ability to work well as part of a team.

The successful candidate will also need to be flexible, as the full-time hours will include teaching some evening classes and travelling to our satellite centres.

As well as contributory pension scheme, sponsorship for further vocational training and free car parking, this post also attracts 35 days holiday each year (excluding Bank Holidays).

Job description and application form can be downloaded from our website www.hadlow.ac.uk Alternatively you can request an application pack by e-mailing jobs@hadlow.ac.uk or telephoning 01732 850551.

Closing date for completed application forms is Monday 8th June 2009.

Interviews will be held on Thursday, 18th June 2009

Visit Hadlow College at www.hadlow.ac.uk

Hadlow College is a committed equal opportunities employer.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Senior Operational Improvement Officer (Revenues and Benefits Service)

Salary up to £30,210

Shepway District Council are now looking for an experienced Senior Operational Improvement Officer to join their recently restructured Revenues and Benefits Service and who will have responsibility for managing the council's Operational Improvement Team.

The person we are looking for will help drive the service forward by:
• Being customer focused • Delivering leadership to your team
• Appreciating the importance of performance and getting results
• Being able to interpret operational plans to ensure service improvements/efficiencies are realised

You will need to:
• Have at least 2 years' experience within a Revenues and Benefits or systems support environment
• Have excellent knowledge of Housing Benefit Legislation
• Have a track record of delivering customer-focussed services
• Demonstrate that you can work as part of a dynamic team

In return we will reward you with a competitive salary, flexible working hours and a challenging career.

If you think you would like to join us, please contact Mark Wilson on 01303 853389 for an informal discussion.

Application details can be downloaded at below or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk
alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.

The closing date for completed application forms is
Friday 5 June 2009.

Shepway District Council
Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue
Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY
Tel: 01303 853000
www.shepway.gov.uk

Folkestone
Hythe & Romney Marsh
Shepway District Council
www.shepway.gov.uk

Shepway District Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applications irrespective of race, colour, age, sex or disability.

To advertise in this section 01303 817040

Chichester college

Community Business Coaches

£19,500 - £25,000 per annum dependent on qualifications and experience.
Home based

Do you like helping people?
Do you know the community groups in Medway, Thanet or Shepway?

Chichester College has an exciting new project for the South East which is funded by SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) and co-financed by ESF (European Social Fund). The project will work with clients in the South East to support them in exploring their route to possible self-employment.

We are creating a regional team of Community Business Coaches and are looking to recruit three coaches in Kent. This is a fixed term contract initially for one year.

Closing Date: 28 May 2009

For more information and to apply, visit www.chichester.ac.uk/jobs
Alternatively, please call Human Resources on 01243 537687 or email: humanresources@chichester.ac.uk quoting HR2901C.

All posts are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check.
We are an equal opportunities employer.

SEEDA

Stone Bay School, 70 Stone Road, Broadstairs, CT10 1EB
Tel- 01843 863421 Fax- 01843 866652
Email- office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk

Maintenance Technician

25 HRS PER WEEK, 8.00am.- 1.00pm. MON – FRI
52 weeks per year
SALARY SCALE KS4 POINT 11 – 14 (PRO RATA TO £15,984 - £16,793) ACTUAL SALARY £10,800 - £11,346

Stone Bay School requires a Maintenance Technician to carry out minor repairs and maintenance work throughout the school. We are looking for someone who has an eye for detail and takes pride in a job well done. Basic DIY and good carpentry skills are vital. Reporting to the Caretaker, you will be carrying out tasks such as repairing broken fixtures, fittings and furniture, putting up blinds, changing light bulbs, occasionally moving furniture around classrooms and residential units, clearing blocked drains and guttering, minor plumbing repairs, mending broken fencing, and assisting the cleaning team by collecting up rubbish bags from around the school twice a day.

A clean driving licence is necessary as you will be required to use the school's van and trailer to take damaged items to the landfill site, and may be required to deliver and collect minibuses for MOT/repair. Jet washing the minibuses, maintaining playground equipment and generally keeping the site tidy and safe is included in the role.

The contract includes 25 days paid holiday per year, which you will be expected to take during the school holidays. You will be eligible to join the KCC pension scheme.

Stone Bay School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and the successful candidate will be required to have a CRB enhanced disclosure, and two references prior to starting.

Please telephone, write or email for an application pack from the main school office. The closing date for applications is Friday 5th June 2009.

Kent County Council is an equal opportunities employer

Kent County Council

Have you ever considered working in Kent? Known as the garden of England for good reason, with its beautiful, historic and varied landscapes, idyllic villages and diverse towns, Kent has a lot to offer. On the doorstep of mainland Europe you are only 45 minutes away from enjoying a coffee and croissant in France, or of course popping into London to catch a show!

With over 6700km of public rights of way, Kent County Council manages the largest network in the country. It also has an excellent national reputation in service delivery and forward thinking, dynamic new initiatives.

Public Rights of Way Officer (Enforcement)

£20,262 – £30,219 (Salary dependent on experience and progression through the Career Grade is based on the fulfilment of required competencies)
Initially on a two year fixed term contract
Maidstone

Joining our Public Rights of Way Team, you will have considerable proven experience of Public Rights of Way or enforcement along with the ability to apply that experience in a pragmatic way to a range of challenging situations. You will be able to investigate reported breaches, prepare case papers and present evidence in Court to the highest standard; and be able to develop similar skills in those around you.

Communicating the requirements of the law effectively to a diverse range of groups with the intention of reducing the number of offences being reported is also required.

With your excellent organisation and communication skills, you will juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology.

You will be a team player, with either considerable proven experience of working within PROW or enforcement or be educated to HND or degree level in a related subject. **Ref: ER/09/0041**

Public Rights of Way Officer (Asset Management Delivery):

Starting salary £20,262
1 year fixed term appointment with possible extension subject to funding
West Malling

The Countryside Access Service is looking for a new officer to join them to deliver capital maintenance programmes across the county. A substantial proportion of the network sits within the Kent Downs and High Weald Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

You will be joining a busy West Kent PROW Team, and will prepare and supervise programmes of capital works. Working closely with landowners, local councils and other agencies to secure all necessary consents and permissions, the post carries a high-volume workload so you will need to be able to juggle numerous competing priorities and adapt readily to the use of new technology.

A team player, and competent to NVQ3 level in civil engineering/ contract management/ estate management, you will be able to demonstrate the same level of competency in a similar related area. The post also requires a high level of motivation, a good knowledge of rights of way law and practice and excellent organisational and communication skills. **Ref: ER/09/0042**

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

For more information on the posts above call Graham Rusling 01622 696995.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the appropriate reference number

Closing date: Midday, 4th June 2009.

A great place to work.
Our services aren't the same, or neither are our people.

www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

With campuses in Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, South Kent College offers a wide range of courses from Entry Level to Level 7 and caters for over 10,000 students of all ages. We currently have the following opportunities at our Ashford campus:

Technician (Ag, Plant, HGV and Welding)

Ref: S2169

37 hours per week

Responsibilities include supporting the day-to-day running of the workshops, demonstrating the use of equipment, contributing to safe working practices and monitoring stock levels of all goods. NVQ Level 2 or equivalent in Construction Plant Engineering is essential, as well as a minimum of three years relevant experience in this field and experience of welding processes (Gas, MIG and ARC).

Lecturer – Beauty Therapy

Ref: T1383

Variable hours, Fixed-term until 31st July 2010

You will teach across all courses on NVQ Levels 1 to 3, specialising in complimentary and alternative therapies such as reflexology as well as delivering Key Skills. NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Beauty Therapy is essential, as is a minimum of three years recent and relevant industry experience.

The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 29th May 2009.

For further information or an application pack please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk

All posts are subject to a disclosure check by the Criminal Records Bureau. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expect all employees to share this commitment. Applications are welcome from suitably qualified candidates regardless of ethnicity, gender, age, disability, sexuality or religion.

SKC South Kent College
ASHFORD • DOVER • FOLKESTONE

Career Opportunities

Sheppey College

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer

Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Trainer Demonstrator Construction ***Ref: 07/07***

18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th June 2009 at 12 noon.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- **Pension & Life Assurance Scheme**
- **Proximity to main bus & train stations**
- **Generous Holiday Allowance**
- **Close to Town Centre**

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

European Union European Social Fund Investing in jobs and skills

Career Opportunities

Canterbury College

Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer

Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you.

Section Manager Construction Craft **08/12**
37 hrs per week, salary starting at £33,858 per annum

Temporary Section Manager Equine, Animal Care, Veterinary Services and Environmental Conservation **09/04**
37 hours per week, salary starting from £33,858 per annum
Fixed term post up to 11 months, maternity cover

Lecturer Animal Care and Land Based **07/87**
37 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum

Lecturer Media Theory **08/53**
18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 pro rata per annum

Lecturer Key Skills (to Automotive Engineering students) **07/30**
37 or 2 x 18.5 hours per week, salary range £18,387 – £26,363 per annum (pro rata for part time posts)

Trainer Demonstrator Public Services **08/140**
37 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £18,963 pro rata per annum

The closing date for the above posts is Monday 8th June 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- ***Pension & Life Assurance Scheme***
- ***Proximity to main bus & train stations***
- ***Close to City Centre***
- ***Sports Hall & Gym***
- ***Generous Holiday Allowance***
- ***Staff Discount Scheme***

CLICK www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies

CALL *01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)*

POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

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European Union European Social Fund Investing in jobs and skills

Gravesham Borough Council

Transformation and Finance Communications

Senior Communications and Media Officer

Salary: Package circa £24,000-£30,000

You will play a pivotal role in our corporate communications function for the Council, taking the lead in working with individual departments to develop communications and marketing strategies which support their objectives. You will also take the lead in reviewing and improving our current publications and you'll have the opportunity to manage and develop our flagship council magazine for residents, Your Borough. You will advise colleagues across the organisation on branding and media relations.

We expect you to be able to demonstrate influencing skills with persistence allied to the ability to communicate clearly, concisely and persuasively both verbally and in writing. Ideally backed up with a professional qualification, you'll have extensive practical experience of a range of external communications and marketing activities, ideally within the public sector. You'll be adept at producing a range of publicity materials from a flyer to our corporate plan and you'll be confident in devising and implementing media strategies and acting when appropriate as an official spokesperson.

Working in a small team you'll be able to work under considerable pressure and manage a range of high profile projects simultaneously. Flexibility in your working hours to meet deadlines is essential, as is a full valid driving licence.

Ref: SC/GC

Closing Date: 06 June 2009

For an application form and job description please contact:
Customer Services, Gravesham Borough Council, Civic Centre, Windmill Street, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1AU.

Telephone: 01474 33 70 00
Email: customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk
Website: www.gravesham.gov.uk/jobs

Gravesham Borough Council is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. The Council also operates a no smoking policy.

Beacon Council 2005-2006 Promoting Racial Equality 2001-2002 Town Centre Regeneration

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Public Sector

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KOSMEDIA | Telephone: 01303 817040 | Fax: 01303 817004 | Email: appointments@kosmedia.co.uk | Online: www.jobsforkent.co.uk

CAREERS IN HEALTHCARE ACROSS EAST KENT

NHS
Eastern and Coastal Kent

From Whitstable to Dover, Ashford to Canterbury, over 710,000 people depend on Eastern and Coastal Kent NHS and we put them at the heart of everything we do. All our staff work hard every day to improve health and wellbeing for the local community, to tackle health inequalities and to provide high quality, responsive and efficient services, both directly and through commissioning.

As one of Kent's largest employers, we aim to employ and train a world-class workforce capable of meeting our many challenges. In return for your skills and commitment we offer wide-ranging staff benefits including real investment in personalised career development, flexible working, childcare, final salary pension scheme and in-house discounts, relocation packages, occupational sickness benefit, car scheme for eligible staff, occupational health service, and enhanced maternity pay.

Staff Nurse X3 (*)

Band 5: £20,710 - £26,839 per annum Ref: 767-EKB1104
Harty Ward, Sheppey Community Hospital

We are looking for an enthusiastic, motivated Staff Nurse to join our team providing care to GP admissions, Elderly Rehabilitation and Stroke patients on Harty/Minster Ward at Sheppey Community Hospital.

You will be working closely with the multi-disciplinary team for the benefit of patient focused care; we are a lively nursing team and work in partnership to ensure that our medical, rehabilitation and stroke patients are provided with high quality care and effective discharge into the appropriate settings.

If you have experience of working within these areas and are highly motivated with good communication skills then come and join our nursing team. You will need to demonstrate effective leadership qualities and welcome the challenge of providing support and some training to other members of the team. Training and development are extremely important to us.

For an informal discussion or visit, please contact Sr. Beryl Simmons, Matron Manager, Harty Ward, Tel: (01795) 879108.

Completed applications by: 28 May 2009.

A comprehensive corporate induction programme is provided at the commencement of employment.

Please ensure that you check your NHS Jobs account regularly in order to see if you have been successful in obtaining an interview.

(*) Employment in this post is subject to a satisfactory Enhanced Disclosure from the Criminal Records Bureau

(🚗) Car owner/driver essential, subject to the provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act (1995)

For further information and to apply, please visit
www.easternandcoastalkent.nhs.uk

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To advertise in this section

01303 817040

Abbey Court School

"WE GROW PEOPLE"

Abbey Court School, a 'special' school and a 'special' place to work.

We are currently looking for...

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

to join and enhance our large and expanding, high calibre team.
Medway Scale, Grade D2
£14,891 - £18,937 (pay award pending) + SEN Allowance (£1,162)

Are you committed, motivated and enthusiastic? Does 'Every Child Matter' to you? Can you make a difference? If so, share your talents and expertise with us.

Abbey Court is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 4-19 with severe learning difficulties. Working hours are 32.5 p/w, term time only. Previous experience and/or NNEB (or equivalent) qualifications preferred. Comprehensive training and induction will be provided.

This School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Record Bureau Disclosure.

For an application pack, please write to/telephone (stating the role for which you are applying): Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent ME2 3SP (01634 338224)

Please note CV's will not be accepted. Closing date: 3.6.2009

Saint George's

Church of England School

Meadow Road, Gravesend, Kent DA11 7LS
Tel: 01474 533082 • Fax: 01474 561536
HEADTEACHER: Mrs A Southgate BDAKC

Church of England, Voluntary Aided, Humanities College
11-18, Mixed, Comprehensive School

TEACHER OF MEDIA STUDIES

Required for September 2009 • Main Pay Scale

We require an enthusiastic and innovative teacher of media studies who is committed to raising the achievement of our students. Applications are welcome from interested candidates including NQTs.

Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over - subscribed Humanities College. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF.

Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks.

Please contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk and click on the 'Job Vacancies' link Candidates will be invited for an informal interview upon receipt of application.

PORTAL HOUSE SCHOOL

Sea Street, St. Margaret's at Cliffe,
Dover, Kent CT15 6SS
Tel: **01304 853033**
E-mail: headteacher@portal-house.kent.sch.uk
Head teacher: Rose Bradley

"Portal House School is a good school with outstanding features"
OFSTED March 2009

We have the following exciting opportunities for those who enjoy the challenges and rewards of teaching able students with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties.
Portal House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children therefore all candidates will require an enhanced CRB check. The school currently has 48 pupils on roll expanding to 60 in September 2009

Required for September 2009

- **Full-time Teacher of Humanities**
- **Full-time Teacher of Mathematics**
- **Part-time Teacher of P.E.**

Salary for all posts MPS plus Special School Allowance

For further information, informal visits and an information pack please contact the school office.

Closing Date: 25th May 2009
Interview Date: 5th June 2009

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JobsforKent.co.uk
The smart way to find a job in the County

PORTAL HOUSE SCHOOL

Sea Street, St. Margaret's at Cliffe,
Dover, Kent CT15 6SS
Tel: **01304 853033**
E-mail: headteacher@portal-house.kent.sch.uk
Head teacher: Rose Bradley

"Portal House School is a good school with outstanding features"
OFSTED March 2009

DEPUTY HEAD

Start January 2010 or sooner
Leadership Scale 14-18

Owing to the promotion of the previous deputy we are seeking to appoint a committed, experienced Senior Manager who enjoys the challenges and rewards of working with able secondary aged students who have SEBD needs. Portal House School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children therefore all candidates will require an enhanced CRB check.

Portal House is a Secondary Special school and currently has 48 pupils on roll expanding to 60 in September 2009.

For an informal discussion or to arrange a visit please contact Rose Bradley, Headteacher. Application packs are available from the school office.

Closing Date: 29th May 2009
Interview Date: 12th June 2009

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e-mail: office@termtimeteachers.co.uk

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A selection of the 100s of Local Jobs online

Accountancy

Credit Controller

Ashford
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Keel Toys
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 506363
Email
julian.drage@keeltoys.com

ACCOUNTS PERSON

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Busy, friendly office requires an experienced Purchase Ledger Clerk Sage Line 50 essential. Customer credit control/reconciliation of supplier accounts. Also flexible approach to assist with general office procedures. Permanent position. Rural location - own transport essential. Contact with CV: e-mail enquiries@colsan.com Phone: 01233 860760
To apply/more information:
Colsan Instrument Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 860760
Email enquiries@colsan.com

Finance Assistant

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
22.5 hours per week. For application and job description
Tel: 01732 459953
Email:council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk
www.sevenoakstown.gov.uk
To apply/more information:
Sevenoaks Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 459953
Email
council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Benefit Officer x 3

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: £14,982 - £22,494 pa
Closing Date: 26 May 2009
To apply/more information:
Swale Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 417414
Email hr@swale.gov.uk

Personal Assistant to the Principal and Chief Executive

Medway
Salary: Circa £30 - £35k
Demanding, exciting and rewarding! If this is the type of career you are looking for, then please continue MidKent College is moving into an exciting phase in the history of the College with the relocation from the Horsted and City Way campuses to a stunning new £86m new build located at Lower Lines, Chatham in September this year. Combining this move with the recent award of the Public Private Partnership contract for the Royal School of Military Engineering at Brompton Barracks and the planned development of the existing Maidstone campus, it is a hectic time for the College. MidKent College now has an annual turnover of £45m, a staff of over 1,000 and trains around 12,000 students and 3,000 soldiers each year. The ideal candidate will therefore be joining during a period of significant change with the opportunity to develop your career within this stimulating environment. You will already have direct experience of working for a senior manager and be fully familiar with the demands and rewards of working at this level. Reporting directly for and supporting the Principal and Chief Executive, you will hold a position of responsibility, developing strong working relationships with the Directors, Senior Leadership Team, Governors and external Stakeholders involved across the MidKent College Group. Interested: Please forward your CV to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk or call him on 07725 128661 (after 12th May) for an informal discussion. A full Job Description/Person Specification and application can be seen at www.midkent.ac.uk Closing Date: 25th May 2009 £30 - £35k plus final salary pension, generous leave and benefits.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email
ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Finance Assistant

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Sevenoaks Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 459953
Email
council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Committee clerk/ Secretary

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Sevenoaks Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 459953
Email
council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Planning Cttee Clerk/ Secretary

Sevenoaks
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 29 May 2009
To apply/more information:
Sevenoaks Town Council
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 459953
Email
council@sevenoakstown.gov.uk

Receptionist/ administrator

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
Part time receptionist/administrator/telephonist required to undertake various duties on a split shift basis at our busy dealership. We require a good organiser with strong inter-personal skills, pc literate with keyboard skills, excellent communication and the ability to manage own workload. This post would suit a mature, experienced person looking for flexible hours. For an immediate interview please send your CV to Greg Wilcox, Franchise Manager, Harwoods Landrover (Tonbridge) Vale Rise, Tonbridge, Kent, TN9 1TB 01732 353637. E-mail: gwilcox@harwoods.uk.com.
To apply/more information:
Harwoods of Edenbridge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 353637
Email
gwilcox@harwoods.uk.com

PROJECT WORKER/ ADMIN SUPPORT

Chatham
Salary: £21,584
Closing Date: 8 June 09
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE

Chatham
Salary: £85 per week
Closing Date: 8 June 2009
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise selfesteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. We have the following vacancies: TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES) £21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift) We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme. You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre. ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICE Salary: £85 per week Nacro are seeking to recruit an Administration Apprentice to provide administrative assistance to support the Project Worker/Admin in the new Construction Building. This will include general office duties including answering the telephone, Faxing, Filing, Photocopying and to assist with some data imports. Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack. Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process. Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

Art and Design

Training Design Analyst/Examiner

Medway
Salary: c£33,000 pa
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email
ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Midday Meal Supervisors

Ashford
Salary: £2876 per annum
Closing Date: Wednesday 3rd June
Five Acre Wood School is looking for Midday Meal Supervisors to join our friendly school located on sites at Boughton Lane, Maidstone and Aylesford School Sports College. The hours will be 11:30 to 1:30 each weekday, term time only. Starting salary will be Kent Scale Band 2 Point 4 - £2876 per annum. This job will be subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced CRB. Please contact the school for an application pack by 25th May. Interviews will be held on Wednesday 10th June. Five Acre Wood and all its personnel are committed to safeguarding children and young people.
To apply/more information:
Five Acre Wood Special School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01622 743925
Email office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk

WEEKEND COOK

Romney Marsh
Salary: £7.77 per hr
8am - 2pm Saturday and Sunday £7.77 per hr. (£93.24 per week-end) Gross. To join our team caring for young people with disabilities. Rewarding and friendly environment. Tel: 01303 872289. For more information and application form. All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.
To apply/more information:
Bethany Lodge
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

House Manager

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
Littlestone is a traditional private members club and enjoys one of the finest links courses in the south of England.The provision of the best possible bar, catering and functions service for members and guest alike is of paramount importance. This is an opportunity for a strong leader with a background in ensuring excellent customer service with consistently high standards in food and beverage operations. The ability to work on your own initiative and interact well with members and motivate a small staff team is vital.The role includes liaison with suppliers, co-ordinating functions, achieving sales and profit targets and you will provide a strong front of house presence. Attractive salary. Applications in writing to The General Manager, Littlestone Golf Club, St Andrews Road, Littlestone, Kent TN28 8RB Or email secretary@littlestonegolfclub.org.uk
To apply/more information:
Littlestone Golf Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email secretary@littlestonegolfclub.org.uk

Cook

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Littlestone Golf Club
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email secretary@littlestonegolfclub.org.uk

Chef and Waiting Staff

Faversham
Salary: TBA
White Lion Require. Part time chef And Part time waiting staff Please call laura Tel: 01227 752211.
To apply/more information:
White Lion
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 752211
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Child Care

Qualified Play Scheme Leader

Thanet
Salary: £20,241.70 pro rata (£10.50ph)
Closing Date: 05/06/09
Holiday Play Scheme for Young people with Disabilities 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009. Qualified Play Scheme Leader (Temporary) Job reference - PSL0001 Salary Scale: £10.50ph Hours: 1 day per week for 4 weeks preparing the scheme, 9:00-5:00 for 9 days from 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009 including one day of training, and 1 day for reviewing and reporting. East Kent Mencap, in partnership with other local organisations have received funding from Children in Need to run a 2 week summer play scheme for young people with disabilities aged 11-19 living in Thanet and are looking for suitably qualified staff and volunteers to assist in the running of this specialist provision. These posts are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke on 01843-224482.
To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: PSL0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Play Scheme Assistant

Thanet
Salary: £16,350.40 pro rata (£8.50ph)
Closing Date: 05/06/09
To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: PSA0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Volunteer Play Scheme Assistant

Thanet
Salary: Nil (any out of pocket expenses to be reimbursed)
Closing Date: 05/06/09
Holiday Play Scheme for Young people with Disabilities. 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009 Volunteer Play Scheme Assistant (Temporary) Job reference - PSV0001 Salary Scale: Nil (any out of pocket expenses to be reimbursed) Hours: 9:00-5:00 for 9 days from 27 July 2009 to 7 August 2009. East Kent Mencap, in partnership with other local organisations have received funding from Children in Need to run a 2 week summer play scheme for young people with disabilities aged 11-19 living in Thanet and are looking for suitably qualified staff and volunteers to assist in the running of this specialist provision. These posts are subject to Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks. Being holders of the Positive about Disabled People award, disabled applicants who meet the minimum criteria will be offered an interview in every circumstance. Applications must be via application form. For further information or to request an application form please contact: Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke on 01843-224482.
To apply/more information:
Lynda Salisbury or Jane Brooke
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: PSV0001
Tel: 01843-224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Domestic

House Team Member

Hythe
Salary: See Below
Short term placement with possible extension. Flexible approach / Sense of Humour / enjoying working in a team under supervision of the Housekeeper. Please ting the Administrator to arrange a weekend visit. £80 per 40 hour week plus bed and board. 95 Seabrook Road, Hythe, Kent, CT20 5QY 01303 230762
To apply/more information:
Cautley House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 230762
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

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To advertise in this section or online
✆ 01303 817040

Domestic Trades

Maintenance Technician

Broadstairs
Salary: £10,800 - £11,346
To apply/more information:
Stone Bay School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 863421
Email office@stone-bay.kent.sch.uk

Heating and Plumbing Instructor

Medway
Salary: £28,000 - £30,000
Closing Date: 1st June 2009
Following promotion we are looking for a qualified and experienced trade's person to teach young soldiers the H&P trade. You will be confident and knowledgeable about your trade and able to communicate your experience through practical demonstration and theory. Previous teaching experience is not important as you will receive training and be supported to gain appropriate qualifications. Job Descriptions and Application forms can be found at www.midkent.ac.uk (follow RSME vacancies) Please forward completed applications to ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk and/or call Ken Pullan on 07725 128661 for an informal discussion on any of these positions.
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email
ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Supply Lecturers (Teachers) - Various

Canterbury
Salary: £18,387 - £26,363 pro rata PA
Closing Date: 26th May 2009
To apply/more information:
Human Resources
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/PA
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Higher Education Curriculum Development Officer

Canterbury
Salary: Starting at £33,858 per annum
Closing Date: 26th May 2009
To apply/more information:
Human Resources
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: CDO/HE
Tel: 01227 811282
Email
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

Medway
Salary: £14,891 - £18,937
To apply/more information:
Abbey Court School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 338224
Email tayllo36@medway.org.uk

Learning Support Assistant

Sittingbourne
Salary: £10,000
To apply/more information:
Hythe House Support
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01795 581006
Email robertduffy@hythehousesupport.co.uk

Technician (Ag, Plant, HGV and Welding)

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 29th May 2009
37 hours per week
Responsibilities include supporting the day-to-day running of the workshops, demonstrating the use of equipment, contributing to safe working practices and monitoring stock levels of all goods. NVQ Level 2 or equivalent in Construction Plant

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Engineering is essential, as well as a minimum of three years relevant experience in this field and experience of welding processes (Gas, MIG and ARC). The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 29th May 2009. For further information or an application pack please contact the Human Resources Department on 0845 207 8222 (24 hour answerphone), email: humanresources@southkent.ac.uk or visit www.southkent.ac.uk
To apply/more information:
South Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: S2169
Tel: 0845 207 8222
Email humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

Lecturer - Beauty Therapy

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: Friday 29th May 2009
To apply/more information:
South Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: T1383
Tel: 0845 207 8222
Email humanresources@southkent.ac.uk

TEACHER OF MEDIA STUDIES

Gravesend
Salary: TBA
Required for September 2009 Main Pay Scale We require an enthusiastic and innovative teacher of media studies who is committed to raising the achievement of our students. Applications are welcome from interested candidates including NQTs. Saint George's C of E School is a successful, innovative and over -subscribed Humanities College. This post comes at an exciting time for the school as we are preparing for new buildings under Wave 4 of BSF. Saint George's C of E School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. All appointments are subject to List 99 and enhanced CRB checks. Please contact us to request further details and an application form. Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk or visit our website www.saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk and click on the 'Job Vacancies' link. Candidates will be invited for an informal interview upon receipt of application.
To apply/more information:
St George's CoE School
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email dhariwalj@saintgeorgescofe.kent.sch.uk

TRAINER

Chatham
Salary: £19,658
Closing Date: 8 June 09
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 818305
Email
Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

GENERAL MECHNICAL ENGINEER

Ashford
Salary: TBA
Woodchurch Electrical experience would be an advantage. Salary: negotiable Hours: TBA. Contract: e-mail enquiries@colsan.com. Phone: 01233 860760
To apply/more information:
Colsan Instrument Services
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01233 860760
Email enquiries@colsan.com

Senior Electrical Building Services Design Engineer

Ashford
Salary: TBA
A senior electrical design engineer is required to take up a position in this small consulting engineering practice based in Ashford, Kent. The ideal applicant will be experienced in all aspects of the electrical consulting design process from conception to completion and be competent using both CAD and industry standard electrical design software. Applications should be made in writing in the first instance including an up to date CV to:- Mr. S Nixon Steven Nixon Associates, 1 Caxton House, Wellesley Road, Ashford, Kent TN24 8ET.
To apply/more information:
Steven Nixon Associates
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Estate Agency, Property

Negotiator - Surveyor

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
Require good all rounder for a busy general practice agency For more information call Norman Coles on 01622 763322 or Send you Applications with CV to Coles & Co 76 Kings Street, Maidstone, ME14 1BH.
To apply/more information:
Coles & Co
Quoting Job Ref: TBA
Tel: 01622 763322
Email
NGA.coles@btinternet.com

Trainee Sales Negotiators

Medway
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information:
Mann & Co
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0800 376 7890
Email shelley.metson@kent.cwea.co.uk

Experienced Sales Negotiators

Medway
Salary: TBA
Due to a huge increase in business in 2009 we are now looking to expand our Sales teams in Medway, Kent. If you are a high calibre individual with a 'can-do' attitude, good communication skills and of smart appearance then contact us to find out more about our structured career path, extensive training and our exciting working environment. To find out more please contact: Human Resources 0800 376 7890 or email your CV.
To apply/more information:
Mann & Co
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 0800 376 7890
Email shelley.metson@kent.cwea.co.uk

Health & Safety, Security, Defense

Health and Safety Officer

Medway
Salary: c£31,000 pa
Closing Date: 1st June 2009
To apply/more information:
Mid Kent College
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07725 128661
Email
ken.pullan@midkent.ac.uk

HR, Recruitment

Community Business Coaches

Kent
Salary: £19,500 - £25,000 per annum
Closing Date: 28 May 2009
Home based. Do you like helping people? Do you know the community groups in Medway, Thanet or Shepway? Chichester College has an exciting new project for the South East which is funded by SEEDA (South East England Development Agency) and co-financed by ESF (European Social Fund). The project will work with clients in the South East to support them in exploring their route to possible self-employment. We are creating a regional team of Community Business Coaches and are looking to recruit three coaches in Kent. This is a fixed term contract initially for one year. Closing Date: 28 May 2009 For more information and to apply, visit www.chichester.ac.uk/jobs Alternatively, please call Human Resources on 01243 537687 or email: humanresources@chichester.ac.uk quoting HR2901C. All posts are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check. We are an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Chichester College
Quoting Job Ref: HR2901C
Tel: 01243 537687
Email humanresources@chichester.ac.uk

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Industrial, Warehouse, Factory

Packer

Dartford
Salary: TBA
Packer required for Northfleet based company. Full time Mon-Frid no previous experience required as full training will be given. Apply to keith.hurdle@tube-gear.com Or in writing Tube Gear Ltd Unit B1 Springhead enterprise park Springhead road, Northfleet Kent DA11 8HB.
To apply/more information:
Tube Gear Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email keith.hurdle@tube-gear.com

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Senior Communications and Media Officer

Gravesend
Salary: circa £24,000-£30,000
Closing Date: 6 June 1009
To apply/more information:
Gravesham Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: SC/GC
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email customer.services@gravesham.gov.uk

Management, Senior Positions

TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES)

Chatham
Salary: £21,584
Closing Date: 8 June 2009
Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders. Nacro Services in Kent and Medway offers vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19years/ adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate raise selfesteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment. As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people. We have the following vacancies: TEAM LEADER (PUBLIC SERVICES/OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES) £21,584 (Inc Labour Market Uplift) We are looking for a motivated individual to develop and deliver a public services/outdoor activities course primarily through our e2e Programme. You will possess the appropriate skills to engage young people in sport and physical activity to increase their participation and progression. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to ensure take up of the course. The post will be based at our Chatham Centre. Closing date for all the above posts is 8 June 2009 with interviews being held week commencing 15 June 2009. Contact Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk or call on 01634 818305 for an application pack. Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process. Nacro is a registered Charity No. 226171
To apply/more information:
Nacro Services Kent
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 212305
Email
Colin.farrow@nacro.org.uk

Marketing, Advertising

PUBLIC RELATIONS SENIOR ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
2 Albion Place Maidstone Kent ME14 5DY
www.adamscreative.co.uk (MATERNITY LEAVE COVER) We are looking for an experienced PR professional with excellent writing and client-facing skills, able to work to tight deadlines as well as having great organisational abilities and bundles of enthusiasm and creativity. Some experience in event management would be an asset. Please send your CV and salary required to Lesley Farnbrough at Adams Creative. lesley@adamscreative.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Adams Creative
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
lesley@adamscreative.co.uk

MARKETING AND SALES ASSISTANT

Maidstone
Salary: TBA
2 Albion Place Maidstone Kent ME14 5DY
www.adamscreative.co.uk MARKETING AND SALES ASSISTANT We are looking for an organised, well presented team player with strong communication skills to support our fast paced business development team. You will be highly conscientious and motivated with a 'can do' attitude. Experience in telemarketing and lead generation is essential. Please send your CV and salary required to Becky Lander at Adams Creative. becky@adamscreative.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Adams Creative
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
becky@adamscreative.co.uk

Motor Trade, Driver

Meals Delivery Driver

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Meals Delivery Driver Required, 5 days over 7, 11am-1.30pm will include some weekends and will involve some kitchen tasks. Extra hours may be available to the right applicant if required. A full clean driving license is essential. Please apply by e-mail to carol@chivescaterers.co.uk. or in writing Chives the Caterers, Whitgift Court, Fisher Road, Canterbury, CT2 8JJ.
To apply/more information:
Chivers Catering Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email
carol@chivescaterers.co.uk

MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN

Hythe
Salary: TBA
B & D Specialist Carsrequire a MOTOR VEHICLE TECHNICIAN for our busy Service Department Successful applicant will be fully skilled and conversant with modern vehicle diagnostic and repair techniques. Good salary for the right person (comparable with Franchised Dealers) Please apply to Bob Musson on 01303 264700 or to 22/25 Range Road Industrial Estate, Hythe, Kent CT21 6HG.
To apply/more information:
B & D Specialist Cars
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 264700
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Skilled mechanic / Mot tester

Chatham
Salary: TBA
Please send your CV to Hazel Motors 271-287 Dale Street Chatham Kent ME4 6QR For an application Form Call 01634 406664 Or Email Info@hazelmotors.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Hazel Motors
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 406664
Email Info@hazelmotors.co.uk

Not for profit, Charities

Project Manger

Canterbury
Salary: £22,500 pro rata
We are a creative charity that brings people together and promotes kindness. We are looking for someone with enthusiasm, people-skills and commitment to help build our innovative organisation. The Project Manager will take responsibility for our exciting new community project in Herne Bay, Kent as well as being involved in many aspects of the charity. Salary - pro rata £22,500 / initially 3 days part-time (flexible). For more information see www.peopleunited.org.uk, email info@peopleunited.org.uk or contact Tom Andrews on 01227 470973. Closing date for applications 26 May (noon).
To apply/more information:
People United
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 470973
Email info@peopleunited.org.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Foster Carers

Sittingbourne
Salary: TBA
• CAN YOU PROVIDE A SAFE AND CARING HOME FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN? • ARE YOU AN EXPERIENCED CARER LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE OR CHANGE? BENECARE OFFERS • EXCELLENT RATES OF PAY • REAL SUPPORT AND RESPITE SYSTEMS FOR CARERS • EXCELLENT TRAINING AND GUIDANCE FROM OUR QUALIFIED AND VERY EXPERIENCED TEAM We would love to hear from you if you are interested or involved in Fostering and would like additional information. Please contact…. 01227 362510 or Email info@benecarefostering.co.uk Web www.benecarefostering.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 362510
Email
info@benecarefostering.co.uk

Care Workers

Kent
Salary: TBA
Scott Care Ltd is expanding its current services and has the following vacancies: Care Workers: To assist service users living in their own homes in Medway, Herne Bay, Canterbury & Whitstable areas. Full time to include mornings, evenings and alternate weekends. Part time evenings and weekends. Experience not essential as comprehensive training will be given. Mileage allowance paid, uniform supplied. Car & mobile phone essential. Phone 01634 730668 Mon - Fri 9am to 5pm only www.scottcare.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Scott Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01634 730668
Email
lesleykerr@scottcare.co.uk

Live-in carer

Kent
Salary: £800-£1,200 per fortnight
Fortnightly live-in care posts available, requirements are NVQ2 Care plus a clean driving licence. £800-£1200 per fortnight plus expenses. Tel: Able Community Care: 01603 281923.
To apply/more information:
Able Community Care Group
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01603 281923
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

SUPPORT WORKERS

Dover
Salary: £6.79 per hour
Broadham Care Ltd is offering exciting career opportunities for experienced care staff at their residential care home for adults with learning disabilities in Dover. SUPPORT WORKERS £6.79 per hour NVQ level 2 is an advantage Full and part time available For more information, or an application please contact: Broadham Care Ltd on 01883 732211 or email HR@broadhamcare.co.uk www.broadhamcare.co.uk
To apply/more information:
Broadham Care Ltd
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01883 732211
Email HR@broadhamcare.co.uk

RGN

Dover
Salary: TBA
Min Experience 2Yrs after Registration with NMC. Good Communication Skills Full Time 36 Hours Contract If Work Permit required, can be arranged Salary to be negotiated depending on experience. Please contact the Manager for more information: George Masih, Applecroft Care Home, Sanctuary Close, River, Dover, CT17 0ER Tel: 01304 821331 Fax: 01304 821551.
To apply/more information:
Applecroft Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 821331
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

RMN

Dover
Salary: TBA
Min Experience 2Yrs after Registration with NMC Good Communication Skills Full Time 36 Hours Contract If Work Permit required, can be arranged Salary to be negotiated depending on experience.Please contact the Manager for more information: George Masih, Applecroft Care Home,, Sanctuary Close, River Dover CT17 0ER Tel: 01304 821331 Fax: 01304 821551.
To apply/more information:
Applecroft Care Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 821331
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT and NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT

Hythe
Salary: TBA
Hythe Nursing Home,Hythe Kent Require a HEALTH CARE ASSISTANT Full/Part Time & NIGHT CARE ASSISTANT 8PM - 8AM. Please telephone 01303 265441.
To apply/more information:
Hythe Nursing Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 265441
Email
applications@kosmedia.co.uk

DISPENSER WITH RECEPTIONIST SKILLS

Rochester
Salary: TBA
Closing Date: 19 June 09
St Werburgh Medical Practice 98 Bells Lane, Hoo, Rochester, Kent ME3 9HU Tel: 01634 250523 PART TIME DISPENSER WITH RECEPTIONIST SKILLS REQUIRED GP Dispensing Practice 20 Hours per Week Mon - Fri, NVQ level 2 qualification in Dispensing essential. Must be able to work without supervision and have own transport. Must be willing to cover holidays and sickness. Closing date: 19 June 2009 Contact; Mrs Julie Allen - Julie.allen@nhs.net.
To apply/more information:
St Werburgh Medical Practice
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email Julie.allen@nhs.net

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Public Sector, Social Services

Senior Operational Improvement Officer

Folkestone
Salary: £30,210
Closing Date: Friday 5 June 2009
Salary up to £30,210. Shepway District Council are now looking for an experienced Senior Operational Improvement Officer to join their recently restructured Revenues and Benefits Service and who will have responsibility for managing the council's Operational Improvement Team. The person we are looking for will help drive the service forward by: ? Being customer focused ? Delivering leadership to your team ? Appreciating the importance of performance and getting results ? Being able to interpret operational plans to ensure service improvements/ efficiencies are realised. You will need to: ? Have at least 2 years' experience within a Revenues and Benefits or systems support environment ? Have excellent knowledge of Housing Benefit Legislation ? Have a track record of delivering customer-focussed services ? Demonstrate that you can work as part of a dynamic team. In return we will reward you with a competitive salary, flexible working hours and a challenging career. If you think you would like to join us, please contact Mark Wilson on 01303 853389 for an informal discussion. Application details can be downloaded at below or email jobs@shepway.gov.uk alternatively call our 24 hour answerphone service on 01303 853481.
To apply/more information:
Shepway District Council
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Highways - Boroughs of Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells and Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS IN THE BOROUGHS OF MAIDSTONE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS AND TONBRIDGE & MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the routes described in Column 1 of the Schedule hereto.

The alternative route for each route described in Column 1 of the Schedule hereto is described in Column 3 of that Schedule. Access will be maintained up to the points of closure.

The Order will come into operation on Tuesday 9th June 2009 and will be valid for a maximum period of up to 3 months or until the works have been completed, whichever is sooner. The anticipated dates of works are listed in column 1.

Specified Road and Proposed Start Date and Duration	The Section affected	The alternative routes
C394 Queens Road, Maidstone 20th July 2009 for Duration of 9 Working Days, 07.00 - 19.00	From A26 Tonbridge Road to A20 London Road. When required up to twenty four hours per day Monday to Sunday.	East bound traffic via A26 Tonbridge Road, A20 Terrace Road, and London Road. West bound traffic vice versa
A20 Ashford Road, Maidstone 10th July 2009 for Duration of 5 Working Days, 19.00 - 02.00	From Square Hill Road to New Cut Road. When required up to twenty-four hours per day Monday to Sunday.	East bound traffic via A249 Andrew Boughton Way, Mote Road, A229 Upper Stone Street., Loose Road, A274 Sutton Road, Willington Street and A20 Ashford Road. Westbound traffic via Willington Street, A274 Sutton Road, A229 Loose Road, Sheals Crescent, Hayle Road, College Road, Palace Avenue, Lower Stone Street, A249 Mote Road and Wat Tyler Way.
C637 New Cut Road, Maidstone 10th July 2009 for Duration of 5 Working Days, 19.00 - 02.00	From A20 Ashford Road to Bearsted Road. When required up to twenty-four hours per day Monday to Sunday.	North bound traffic via A20 Ashford Road, A249 Andrew Boughton Way, Albion Place, Sittingbourne Road and Bearsted Road. South bound traffic vice versa.
White Hill Road, Detling 6th July 2009 for Duration of 3 Working Days, 07.00 - 19.00 hrs	From Matts Hill Road to Magpie Lane. When required up to twenty-four hours per day Monday to Sunday.	East bound traffic via Matts Hill Road, Matts Hill, Yaugher Lane and Magpie Lane. Westbound traffic vice versa.
Conway Road, Maidstone 10th June 2009 for Duration of 11 Working Days. 24 hrs each day work is required.	From A20 London Road to Ash Grove. When required up to twenty four hours per day.	North east bound traffic via Ash Grove and Poplar Grove. South west bound traffic vice versa.
Suffolk Road, Maidstone 17th July 2009 for Duration of 4 Working Days, 07.00 - 19.00	From Cumberland Avenue to Oxford Road. When required up to twenty-four hours per day Monday to Sunday.	East bound traffic via Cumberland Road, Northumberland Road and Oxford Road, Westbound traffic vice versa.
Plains Avenue, Maidstone 6th July 2009 for Duration of 11 Working Days, 07.00 - 19.00	From A274 Sutton Road to Oxford Road. When required up to twenty-four hours per day Monday to Sunday.	East bound traffic via Oxford Road, Northumberland Road and A274 Sutton Road. Westbound traffic vice versa.
A228 Maidstone Road, Paddock Wood 9th June 2009 for a Duration of 11 Working Days, 19.00 - 02.00 hrs	From A228 Whetsted Road to B2017 Badsell Road (To be closed in 4 sections individually, only 1 section to be closed at any one time). Suspension of weight limit on Paddock Wood Railway Bridge No.784 - Network Rail No.277 (ELR PWS1)	A228 Whetsted Road, B2017 Badsell Road and B2160 Maidstone Road.
Glassenbury Road, Cranbrook 22nd June 2009 for a Duration of 4 Working Days, 19.00 - 02.00 hrs	From A262 Goudhurst Road to A229 Hartley Road	A229 Hartley Road, Angley Road, A262 Goudhurst Road and Glassenbury Road.
Woodlands Road, Ditton. 7th July 2009 for Duration of 4 Working Days, 09.00 - 16.30.	From Primrose Close to Birch Crescent	West bound traffic via A20 London Road, New Road. Eastbound traffic vice versa.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Neil Tree on 08458 247 800.

Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, WHITSTABLE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Queens Road and Swalecliffe Road, Whitstable, from 8 June 2009, as shown in columns 1 and 2 of the Schedule to this Order. This is for an estimated period of four weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 3 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route
Queens Road, Whitstable	Between the junctions with Wynn Road and Bennells Avenue	Manor Road, Northwood Road and Bennells Avenue
Swalecliffe Road, Whitstable	Between the junctions of Bennells Avenue and St Swithin's Road	Bennells Avenue, Herne Bay Road (eastbound), Tankerton Road (westbound) and St Swithin's Road

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(HAYES ALLEY, WHITSTABLE) (RESTRICTIONS ON PEDESTRIANS) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because building refurbishment works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through access on Hayes Alley, Whitstable, between High Street and Middle Wall from 26 May 2009, for an estimated period of 10 weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for pedestrians will be via High Street, Terrys Lane and Middle Wall.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
VARIOUS ROADS, DARTFORD (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 8th June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last as noted in the attached schedule. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate pre-patching works for Kent Highway Services.

SCHEDULE 1

Road Name	Length of Closure	Diversion Route
Durrant Way, Swanscombe from Manor Road to Leonard Avenue	3 weeks	Manor Road, Swanscombe Street, Durrant Way, Leonard Avenue
Keary Road, Swanscombe from Swanscombe Street to Leonard Avenue	3 Weeks	Manor Road, Swanscombe Street, Durrant Way, Leonard Avenue
Leonard Avenue, Swanscombe from Durrant Way to Keary Road	3 Weeks	Durrant Way, Manor Road, Swanscombe Street, Keary Road
Munford Drive, Swanscombe from Keary Road to Keary Road	2 Weeks	Keary Road
Northdown Road, Longfield from Whitehill Road to the End	1 Week	N/A

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
VARIOUS ROADS, GREENHITHE (SWEATSHOP 10KM RUN) (TEMPORARY RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 8th June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the event will take place on 14th June 2009 between 6am and 10:30am. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

There are no alternative routes for the routes described above.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the holding of a running race and to protect the runners.

SCHEDULE 1

B255 St Clement Way, Greenhithe - (one way) traffic prohibited from Bluewater Parkway to A226 London Road

A226 London Road, Greenhithe - (one way) traffic prohibited from A206 St Clement Way to Stone Place Road

B3228 Cotton Lane, Greenhithe - (one way) traffic prohibited from Cotton Lane to A206 Crossways Boulevard

A206 Crossways Boulevard, Greenhithe - (one way) traffic prohibited from B3228 Cotton Lane to A206 St Clements Way

A206 St Clements Way, Greenhithe - (one way) traffic prohibited from A206 Crossways Boulevard to B255 St Clement Way

Highways - District of Dover

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because Carriageway Surfacing works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on various roads, Dover from as described in column 1 of the schedule to the order on or after 28 May 2009 for an estimated period of as described in column 3 of the schedule to this order or until such works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via as described in column 2 of the schedule to this order.

The Affected Route	The Alternative Route	Date & Times of Road Closure
Ringwould Road, Kingsdown Pumping Station to Upper Street	Dover Road, Granville Road, Kingsdown Road and Upper Street	28 May - 2 June 2009 (08:00 - 18:00)
Kingsdown Road, Walmer Hawkshill Road to Upper Street	Granville Road, Dover Road, Ringwould Road and Upper Street	29 May - 8 June 2009 (20:00 - 05:00)

Highways - Borough of Gravesham

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
VARIOUS ROADS, GRAVESHAM (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted in Schedule 1.

The Order will become effective on 8th June 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to last as noted in the attached schedule. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative routes for the routes described above will as noted in the attached schedule.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate pre-patching works for Kent Highway Services.

SCHEDULE 1

Road Name	Length of Closure	Diversion Route
Sallows Shaw, Meopham from Manor Road to Whitepost Lane	3 weeks	Manor Road, Sole Street, Round Street, Whitepost Lane
Huntingfield Road, Meopham from Longfield Road to Wrotham Road	1 week	Longfield Road, Wrotham Road
Gainsborough Drive, Gravesend from Dene Holm Road to Landseer Avenue	1 Week	Gainsborough Drive, Landseer Avenue
Bellman Avenue, Gravesend from Rochester Road to Gravesend Road	1 Week	Rochester Road, Abbey Road

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
QUEEN STREET, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Queen Street, Gravesend between properties numbered 15-17. This Order will also suspend the one way order on the above road for the duration of the planned works.

The Order will become effective on 25th May 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take place on 31st May 2009. These closures and restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Parrock Street, Lord Street, Clive Road, Barrack Row, Bath Street, West Street, Crooked Lane, Queen Street.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the installation of a new electrical supply.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
PRIESTWOOD ROAD, HARVEL (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Priestwood Road, Harvel between its junctions with Horns Oak Road and Chandlers Road.

The Order will become effective on 25th May 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take one week commencing on 26th May 2009. These closures will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Chandlers Road, Dean Lane, Dean Road, Oakenden Lane, Foxenden Lane, Whitehill Road, Horns Oak Road

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the installation of a new water supply.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
QUEEN STREET, GRAVESEND (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Queen Street, Gravesend between properties numbered 15-17. This Order will also suspend the one way order on the above road for the duration of the planned works.

The Order will become effective on 25th May 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the works are planned to take place on 31st May 2009. These closures and restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Parrock Street, Lord Street, Clive Road, Barrack Row, Bath Street, West Street, Crooked Lane, Queen Street.

The purpose of the Order is to facilitate the installation of a new electrical supply.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(STONE STREET, ELMSTED) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because drainage and carriageway works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Stone Street, Elmsted from junction of Curtis Lane to the junction with North Leigh on 26 May 2009 for an estimated period of 5 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative for the closure described in column 1 of the Schedule is described in column 2 of the Schedule:

THE SCHEDULE

Specified Direction	Alternative routes
Southbound traffic via	New Dover Road, A2 Dover Road, A260 Canterbury Road, A260 Spitfire Way, A260 Canterbury Road, A259 Churchill Avenue, A20 Cherry Garden Avenue, Cheriton Road, Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Interchange and A20 Ashford Road. Vehicles permitted to travel on motorways can follow the route to A260 Spitfire way and join the A20 at the Roundhill Tunnels junction, continue along to the M20 and exit at junction 11.
Northbound traffic via	A20 Ashford Road, Cheriton Interchange, Cheriton High Street, Cheriton Road, A20 Cherry Garden Avenue, A259 Churchill Avenue, A260 Canterbury Road, A260 Spitfire Way, A260 Canterbury Road, A2 Dover Road and New Dover Road. Vehicles permitted to travel on motorways can join the M20 at junction 11, continue along to the A20 and exit at the Roundhill Tunnels junction then follow the diversion.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(MILL ROAD, HYTHE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because electrical ducting and cabling works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Mill Road, Hythe from the junction of Station Road to the junction with Seabrook Road on 30 May 2009 for an estimated period of 4 weeks or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via A259 East Street and A259 Seabrook Road. Local access only to Mill Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOWDELL LANE, SNARGATE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because electrical cable and ducting works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Bowdell Lane, Snargate from the junction with the B2080 to the junction with Grove Lane, outside and opposite Rose Cottage on or after 8 June 2009 for an estimated period of 10 working days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via B2080, King Street, Brack Lane and Bowdell Lane.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(LOVE LANE, MINSTER) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of works related to the construction of new dwellings, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Love Lane, Minster, between the junctions of Wards Hill Road and Scarborough Drive, on or after 26 May 2009 for an estimated period of four weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Wards Hill Road, Lynmouth Drive and Scarborough Drive.

This Order will remain valid for a maximum period of eighteen months and be in operation when the appropriate signs are displayed. The order will allow the above-mentioned restrictions to be implemented as and when required for works of a similar nature, at any time for the duration of the order.

It is anticipated there will be a further four week closure approximately four weeks after this closure ends.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(FORD LANE, WROTHAM HEATH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Ford Lane between the M20 Bridge and Wrotham Water Road on or after Wednesday 27th May 2009 for a period of up to 1 day or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via A20 London Road, Trottiscliffe Road, Addington Lane, Ford Lane and for southbound traffic vice versa.

Commhoist Ltd apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to place a crane in the carriageway to install Vodafone equipment. Should you require any further information regarding these works, their contact is Rebecca O'Brien on 01942 269335.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling and District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
VARIOUS ROADS, WROTHAM, STANSTED AND WEST KINGSDOWN (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst an event is held on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on various roads as noted below (i) and (ii). This Order will also restrict traffic to not exceeding a speed limit of 30m.p.h. on the roads as noted below (iii) and (iv).

Closure of Stansted Lane between the London Golf Course entrance and its junction with South Ash Lane - One Way Traffic from South Ash Lane towards London Golf Club.

Closure of South Ash Lane from its junction with Stansted Lane to A20 London Road, Wrotham/West Kingsdown - One Way Traffic from A20 London Road towards Stansted Lane.

A20 London Road, West Kingsdown between its junction with South Ash Lane and Crowhurst Lane, West Kingsdown.

Ash Lane/South Ash Lane, Stansted betweenA20 London Road, Wrotham and Pease Hill, Ash.

The Order will become effective on 25th May 2009, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months, the event is planned to take place between 27th and 31st May 2009 between the hours of 06:30 and 20:30. These closures and speed restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

There are no alternative routes for the routes described above.

The purpose of the Order is to ensure that traffic remain moving whilst the event is being held.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent Highway Services

The Insolvency Act 1986
TRANSPORT LIFTING CONTRACTS LIMITED
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
Company No: 04714717

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that I, Isobel Susan Brett of KSA LLP, 141 Parrock Street, Gravesend, Kent, DA13 1EY was appointed Liquidator of the above named Company by the Creditors on 14th May 2009.
Isobel S Brett, Liquidator

The Insolvency Act 1986
JUST LEATHERS LIMITED
Company Number 03764169

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors of the above-named Company will be held at Fisher Partners, 11-15 William Road, London NW1 3ER, on 2 June 2009, at 10.30 am for the purposes provided for in Sections 99 and 101 of the Act.
A list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors will be available for inspection free of charge at the offices of Fisher Partners, Acre House, 11-15 William Road, London NW1 3ER, on 29 May 2009 and 1 June 2009 between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm.
Dated 5 May 2009
Y Kadia, Director

CHISLEHURST CONTRACTORS LIMITED
Company Number 5991439

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of the creditors of the Company will be held at Victory House, Quayside, Chatham Maritime, Kent, ME4 4QU, on Thursday 4 June 2009, at 11.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 99 to 101 of the said Act. Resolutions to be taken at the Meeting may include a Resolution specifying the terms on which the Liquidator is to be remunerated, and the Meeting may receive information about, or be called upon to approve, the costs of preparing the statement of affairs and convening the Meeting. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge their proxy, together with a full statement of account at the above address, not later than 12.00 noon on the business day preceding the meeting. For the purposes of voting, a secured creditor is required (unless he surrenders his security) to lodge a statement at the above address before the meeting, giving particulars of his security, the date when it was given and the value at which it is assessed. Notice is further given that a list of the names and addresses of the Company's creditors may be inspected, free of charge, at the above address between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on the two business days preceding the date of the meeting stated above.
Dated 1 May 2009
Brian Flynn, Director

To advertise in this section
01303 817040

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS – NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/01014/FL – Meadow House Mereworth Road West Peckham Maidstone Kent ME18 5JH – Mr Andrew Still is applying for two storey extension to south-west flank of dwelling, replacement conservatory at rear and new second conservatory at rear. Reason: CA HH

TM/09/00535/FL – The Bothy Comp Lane Platt Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8QS – Mr William Dyson is applying for two storey rear extension. Reason: DEPART HH

TM/09/00821/FL – Orchard Place Teston Road Offham West Malling Kent ME19 5PD – Mrs N Draper is applying for log cabin to be occupied as dwelling in substitution of mobile home permitted by TM/07/01124/FL (Variation of condition 2 of planning permission TM/93/00722/FL (Use of land as residential caravan site) to allow additional mobile home and tourer caravan). Reason: DEPART

Reasons for the case being publicised:

CA	Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
DEPART	Application does not accord with the Development Plan
HH	Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk – click on the button "Do It Online" and follow the instructions for "Planning Applications" online. You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 14 June 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
24 May 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Mazda3

Leaner greener spa star Mazda3

MAZDA might have staged a comeback as the sporty 'Zoom Zoom' brand, but it knows that real stability and growth comes from everyday models.

It was here that the brand came unstuck before, relying too much on glamour rubbing off from racy models like the MX-5 and RX-series.

The first generation Mazda3 played a major role in the Japanese brand's recovery, creating a serious rival in the Ford Focus – a car to which it was closely related though, via Ford's significant Mazda shareholding.

However, while it was a good drive, it had several flaws: the styling of the hatchback seemed dowdy and bloated and the interior looked dull as newer rivals pitched up, while cabin refinement fell short.

Virtually all of this was put right this week by the launch of the second generation car: the styling is evolutionary rather than revolutionary, but the plain 'face' of the car now wears a big grin and the flanks are sharper and more muscular.

It is as if the car has had a long spell at a health spa, especially as Mazda has given it the now familiar eco-friendly 'Mazda makeover' – like all recent new Mazdas, it is lighter, leaner and greener.

Inside, there is a lot of the latest Mazda6 about the layout, style and quality of the user-friendly dashboard and the space and airiness makes you wonder whether Mazda has risked cannibalising sales of the car's big brother.

Until, that is, you realise that rear legroom is only average for the family hatchback sector let alone challenging that found in the next one up.

On the road also feels like a reunion with an old friend; the Mark 1 was tidy in the handling department and the new car feels the same, only tauter and sharper with a more consistent ride.

This catapults it into the leading pack in its sector, although slightly off the pace for refinement set by the latest VW Golf.

Nevertheless, the Mazda would be a stylish and sensible choice with fuel economy up 16 per cent across the board, while emissions are down by nearly 20, helped by a 15-kilo weight saving over its predecessor.

Prices look reasonable too (£13,500-19,900) – the £21,500 MPS hot hatch flagship arrives soon to add glamour.

For now, powertrains include four petrol units and three new turbodiesels; I missed out on the new 185PS (182bhp) 2.2-litre performance diesel though others spoke in glowing terms, but the same capacity 150PS option was pretty impressive.

With a typically crisp Mazda gearbox, this version was a responsive delight along a mix of straight road and winding stuff, with the extra weight of the diesel 'lump' adding to that big-car feel.

I also tried the 109PS (107bhp) 1.6-litre 'cooking' diesel, which naturally felt lightweight after the 2.2 yet still lively and should be a popular seller even if a bit gruff under pressure.

A 105PS 1.6-litre petrol completed my test driving; after the diesels it needed lots of gearchanging to make progress on a challenging test route, but I enjoyed myself thanks to the car's tidy handling and the gearbox. Which is where the Mazda3 used to score anyway, but it now has the benefit of a sharper look and stronger personality.

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Models shown may have optional extras available at an extra cost. On the road prices include number plates, delivery, Vehicle Excise Duty, first registration fee and VAT. Offers are available for registrations between 03.04.09 and 02.07.09 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). Savings shown are against list price at time of publication, for details refer to Vauxhall's April 2009 price guide Edition 1. All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. (Vaux71887)

Mégane's stylish coupé statement is cut short

DrivingReview

by STEVELOADER
CHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk

Renault Mégane Coupé

ONE of the clever motor marketing trends recently has been the transformation of the humble three-door hatchback into the Sports Hatch, the SportCoupé or the 'Bird Magnet'.

Okay, I lied about the last one and anyone who was about to Google the price of one, might find that a decent chat-up line works better than a flash motor…

Fact is though, this racy re-packaging of what used to be the humblest and often loss-leading version of a family hatchback range has turned seriously profitable. No wonder carmakers have vied to come up with the sexiest and most low-slung versions lately.

After admiring the five-door version, I await the first glimpse of the next three-door Vauxhall Astra with great interest, but the current star of this show is the Renault Mégane Coupé (from £15,250).

This car really does justify the coupé label with its elegantly tapered rear roofline and tail and upswept rear windowline.

Ironically, while it might look even more radical and aggressive than its predecessor – famed for its upright rear glass and stepped boot and equally sassy TV adverts – the new coupé is also more practical.

And if the styling feels more harmonious, it is echoed by the construction and this is a key factor with this new breed of three-door hatch turned 'coupé'; if the carmakers want the extra profits from selling desirability rather than functionality then these cars must look the part inside.

The Mégane hits the mark here, in terms of both quality and style though the execution is not perfect; rarely have I encountered a sound system as irritating to use as this Renault, but perhaps that is because I reckon such devices should be intuitive rather than requiring the manual to be studied like a textbook.

On the plus side, I liked the big digital speedo dead ahead, with a conventional rev counter immediately to the left for enthusiasts. The front of the cabin is also well-organised and airy, helped by the £1,250 glass roof – also packaged with Bluetooth connectivity and that 'premium' sound system mentioned earlier – of our mid-range 2.0 TCE 180 Dynamique model (£18,650), though this 'skylight' cannot match the current Astra's unbroken panoramic roof – that makes you feel like you are piloting a light plane or glider (see Motors TV at www.carsforkent.co.uk).

The rear of the car is roomy with an armrest 'organiser' should you wish to use the space as an office, but those high and wickedly raked rear windows are near impossible for kids to see out of. The boot is surprisingly generous for this

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Motability

Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Aveo £350, Captiva £400). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost (Matiz and Aveo £249, Captiva £349). Available at participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. Savings against current man. rec. price at time of publication and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th June 2009. Prices correct at time of press. (Chev73058)

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO_2 emissions 132g/km. Captiva 2.4 Petrol LS 5-seat: Urban - 23.5 (12.0), Extra-urban - 39.8 (7.1), Combined - 31.7 (8.9). CO_2 emissions 217g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO_2 emissions 119g/km.

class though, despite the sharply raked tailgate.

However, while the Mégane can measure up visually to the coupé image, it starts to fall short on the open road and especially when you have the test car's muscular turbocharged 2.0-litre petrol engine to play with.

This free-revving muscular 178bhp unit begs you to use its power, but the six-speed shift really ought to be more precise for a car aiming to be seen as a sporting machine.

And the chassis set-up does not really advance the cause either; it compromises handling for comfort, but ends up pleasing neither cause, feeling vague on the corners – steering feedback could be better too – and then being unduly restless on poor surfaces.

The more I drove it, the more the suspicion lingered that Renault had saved development money by re-working and clothing the previous Mégane rather than going for an all-new effort – the same penny-pinching approach has hamstrung the brand's current Laguna.

Still, I'm drawn back to the car's two big plus points: a gorgeous engine and possibly the coolest coupé body of the moment.

My advice would be go for the junior models and get your street cred on the cheap.

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DrivingStats

- Renault Mégane Coupé 2.0 TCE 180 Dynamique £18,650
- Range: £15,250-19,550
- Garage stats: 4.03m by 1.71m three-door coupe/hatchback
- Powertrain: 1,998cc/178bhp turbocharged four-cylinder petrol engine driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 142mph and 0-62mph in 7.8 seconds
- How green?: group I (£175/year) road tax - 178g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 37.2mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): *****
- Fuel tank: 60 litres/13.2gallons
- Insurance group: 13
- Warranty: three years/60,000miles.
- Website: www.renault.co.uk
- Rivals: BMW 1-Series three-door or Coupé, Citroën C4 Coupé, Honda Civic, Hyundai Coupé, Kia Proceed, Mercedes-Benz CLC, Vauxhall Astra Sport Hatch, Volvo C30 and VW Scirocco

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GRAND VOYAGER, lv07lge, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, rear armrest, remote locking, roof rails, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:16, black, 18000 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

CITROEN

C3, 1.1i Desire 5dr, lv05rwf, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd. insurance group:2, blue, 16453 miles, £4795, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

DAIHATSU

SIRION, 1.3 S Hatchback 5d 1298cc, 55/2005, pas abs radio/cd player a/con electric windows electric mirrors reversing aid, metallic coral, 26, 000 miles, £5395, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

FORD

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr*******SPORT PACK 3*******, ng08hhr, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, balance of 3 year warranty, 18 alloys, rain sensing wipers, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, child locks, colour coding body, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:8, grey, 25509 miles, £13995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.6TDCi Zetec 5dr, ap08nnf, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year, 17 alloy upgrade, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, driver airbag, electric mirrors, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, grey, 28102 miles, £11495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Zetec 5dr, ra08hjv, metallic moondust. with over00 ford cars in stock today, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year. insurance group:7, silver, 4000 miles, £10900, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

C-MAX, 1.8TDCi Titanium 5dr**TITANIUM X AND SPORT PACK**, ej08rxp, titanium x pack, 18 alloys, 2yrs roadside assistance, bluetooth, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, park assist, privacy glass, rain sensing wipers, solar reflect windscreen, xenon headlights, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, colour coding body, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, heated screen, leather seats, leather upholstery, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, black, 3629 miles, £14695, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FIESTA, Sport Van, ly57aju, panel van, alloy wheels, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, warranty, warrantied mileage, red, 4251 miles, £6999, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 3dr [Climate], gk06pov, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:5, silver, 6754 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 2.0 ST 3dr - LEATHER / ESB / BLUETOOTH / ST STRIPE, gj07vha, diamond white. st stripes, esp, abs, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, leather seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, call les bellchmabers 01474 537 537. insurance group:13, blue, 21351 miles, £8995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FIESTA, 1.4 Zetec 5dr [Climate], sm08sya, adjustable seats, air conditioning, alloy wheels, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, radio/cd, rear headrests, contact the used car team for more help, all vehicles come with balance of 3 year. insurance group:5, silver, 11159 miles, £8495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 LX 5dr [115], air con, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:6, blue, 32661 miles, £6695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

FOCUS, 1.6 Zetec 5dr Auto [Climate pack], ax56aco, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, sports seats, call les bellchmabers 01474 537 537. insurance group:6, green, 10000 miles, £8995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 2.0 TDCi Ghia 5dr***DVD NAVIGATION, BLUETOOTH ***, gk58vlu, with over 400 ford cars in stock today, contact the used car team for more help, bluetooth handsfree and voice control, demonstrator car, dvd navigation, park assist, parking sensors, privacy glass, rain sensing wipers, rear park assist, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, cd multichanger, central locking, child locks, cloth upholstery, colour coding body, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, heated screen, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, metallic paintwork, multi function steering wheel, park distance control, passenger airbag, pearlescent paint, power assisted steering, radio, remote locking, silver, 5560 miles, £18495, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

GALAXY, 1.8 TDCi Zetec 5dr [6] - FULL LEATHER, gj07ydc, 10559 miles, £13495, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Zetec [70] 3dr [Climate], air conditioning, alloy wheels, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, rear headrests, call les bellchmabers 01474 537 537. insurance group:4, blue, 4701 miles, £6995, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i Collection [70] 3dr, gy55lya, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:3, blue, 21948 miles, £4695, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i [70] 3dr, gj05yfg, driver airbag, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, radio/cassette. insurance group:2, silver, 11197 miles, £3990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

KA, 1.3i [70] 3dr **ONLY 12115 MILES+ GROUP 2 INSUR.**, gl56czb, driver airbag, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, power assisted steering, radio/cassette. insurance group: 2, blue, 12115 miles, £4490, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

MONDEO, 2.0 TDCi Edge 5dr, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, electric mirrors, electric windows, power assisted steering, remote locking. insurance group:8, blue, 17431 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

RANGER, Pick Up XLT Thunder Double Cab 3.0TDCi 4WD, 156 bhp, cat 1 alarm, reverse parking sensors, warrantied mileage. 5 seater, silver, 10 miles, £13499, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

RANGER, TIPPER, ac58efw, 143 ps, tipper, max weight 875 kg, max pulling weight 3000 kg, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, warranty, warrantied mileage, white, 25 miles, £10959, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 TDCi LX 5dr [5], air con, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:10, blue, 37668 miles, £11990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

S-MAX, 1.8 TDCi Titanium 5dr [5] ***TITANIUM X PACK***, ek08dhu, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, electrically adjustable seats, head restraints, folding rear seats, lumbar support, immobiliser, park distance control, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd multichanger, rear headrests, sports seats, 18 alloy wheel upgrade, alcantara leather trim, auto lights and wipers, climate controlled air conditioning, electric heated door mirrors, esp traction control, ford direct, global opening and closing, heated front windscreen, panoramic roof, sony cd player, titanium x pack. insurance group:10, black, 11286 miles, £17990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

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08/08	206 5Dr Look HDi 70, Moonstone, 7090 miles	£8495	£7495
08/08	207 3 Dr GT THP 150, Montebello, 7686 miles	£10495	£9695
08/58	107 3Dr KISS 1.0, Raven, 2839 miles	£6995	£6495
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06/06	206 1.4 Verve 3dr, Aegean Blue, 21921 miles	£6250	£5490
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58/08	107 1.0 Kiss 3dr, Raven Black, 3331 miles	£6777	£5999
56/06	207 1.4 S 3dr, Aluminium, 22322 miles	£6490	£6150
55/06	206 Sw 1.4 Hdi Verve, Montebello Blue, 37500 miles	£6990	£6490
58/08	107 1.0 Urban Move 3dr, Zircon Grey, 2452 miles	£7222	£6555
58/08	206 1.4 Look 3dr, Diablo Red, Delivery miles	£8495	£7650
57/07	207 1.6 Se Hdi 110 5dr, Aegean Blue, 16924 miles	£9250	£8250
08/08	308 1.6 Sport Vti 5dr, Aluminium, 13069 miles	£9990	£9650

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2002 52 SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 63,260 miles, Steel Grey. ABS, Alloys, Cruise control, Heated seats, Full Electric pack, Park distance control, Remote locking, Side airbags, Sports seats, Traction control, Climate control, In Car Entertainment, Warranty, Leather upholstery, Met paintwork, Tinted glass **£5,495**

2005 55 RENAULT Scenic 1.4 Dynamique, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 29,889 miles, Metallic Green. Rear wiper, Air conditioning, Heated door mirrors, Lumbar support, Side airbags, Front electric windows, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Electric door mirrors, Rear electric windows, ABS, Cloth seat trim, Isofix child seat anchor points, Front fog lights, Passenger airbag, Remote central locking, Drivers airbag, Trip computer, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, PAS. Insurance Group:4 ..... **£5,000**

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TRANSIT, High Roof Van TDi 115PS, ly08gjy, 115 ps, panel van, cd player, factory fitted bulk head, finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp+leasing, lwb, ply lined, warranty. 3 seater, white, 20432 miles, £14990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, High Roof Van TDi 90ps, na55ejy, 90 ps, panel van, mot-10-2009. finance available, full dealer facilities, high roof, hp+leasing, lwb, ply lined, warranty. white, 28990 miles, £7990, Crayford, 01322 621667 (TRADE)

TRANSIT, Low Roof Van TDi 85ps, ng06lxr, 85 ps, panel van, max weight 2800 kg, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, ply bulkhead, ply lined, swb, warranty, warrantied mileage, white, 32000 miles, £5999, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

TRANSIT CONNECT, gl09smc, panel van, cd player, remote locking. white, 100 miles, £9995, Sittingbourne, 01795 426693 (TRADE)

HONDA

ACCORD, 2.2 i-CTDi Sport Saloon 4Dr, 56/2006, sat nav system cruise control bluetooth phone system a/con steering controls front fog lights remote c/locking electric windows electricdoor mirrors alloy wheels boot spoiler, metallic blue, 84, 000 miles, £7995, Folkestone, 01303 275795 (TRADE)

CIVIC, 2.2 i-CTDi Sport 5dr, oe56ewl, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, climate control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, front armrest, head restraints, headlight washers, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:10, silver, 31000 miles, £10995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

HYUNDAI

GETZ, 1.1 GSI 3dr, gf05cwu, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, central locking, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, immobiliser, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering. insurance group:3, red, 40000 miles, £3495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

KIA

PICANTO, 1.1 LS 5dr, gj57cdu, abs, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, central locking, driver airbag, electric windows, head restraints, folding rear seats, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, radio/cd, rear headrests. insurance group:3, red, 19232 miles, £4295, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

MAZDA

BT-50, lx08ymg, finance available, full dealer facilities, hp+leasing, warranty, warrantied mileage, silver, 3468 miles, £7999, Gravesend, 01474 537111 (TRADE)

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A150, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, mountain grey metallic, 4000 miles, £14712, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

A150, Avantgarde SE Automatic, 2009, jupiter red, 6000 miles, £15497, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

A150, Classic SE Manual 5 DR Classic SE, 2006, atoll blue metallic, 17200 miles, £9250, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A150, Elegance 3 door, 2007, saturn red, 12537 miles, £10390, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, Classic SE Auto 5 DR Classic SE, 2005, tropic black metallic, 25016 miles, £8480, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 DR CLASSIC SE ***REDUCED***, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 5000 miles, £13698, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

A160 CDI, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2009, mistral blue, 5000 miles, £14980, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, 5 DOOR Classic SE, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 7600 miles, £13495, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

A180 CDI, 5 DOOR Avantgarde SE, 2008, cosmos black metallic, 13500 miles, £12995, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

A200 CDI, Avantgarde SE Auto 3 DR Avantgarde SE, 2006, polar silver metallic, 30000 miles, £9997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

B150, SE, 2009, cosmos black metallic, 5000 miles, £18947, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

B150, SE, 2009, horizon blue metallic, 3000 miles, £16998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

B170, MAV SE, 2008, polar silver metallic, 3600 miles, £15370, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, MAV SE, 2008, atoll blue metallic, 17547 miles, £16250, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

B180 CDI, MAV SE, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 11116 miles, £16900, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

B200 CDI, MAV Sport, 2008, horizon blue metallic, 3312 miles, £18700, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180, K BlueEFFICIENCY Sport, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 3000 miles, £23998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 18500 miles, £20494, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, tenorite grey metallic, 10829 miles, £14448, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 14600 miles, £21325, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, cubanite silver metallic, 13509 miles, £21490, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 14829 miles, £19000, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 12755 miles, £20979, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2009, cubanite silver metallic, 2636 miles, £22700, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, cubanite silver metallic, 22949 miles, £14980, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2007, jasper blue metallic, 16103 miles, £13994, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C180 KOMPRESSOR, 2004, jasper blue, 38500 miles, £7997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

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C200, Sport, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 8402 miles, £23100, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C200, SE, 2009, palladium silver metallic, 5000 miles, £23813, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C200, Sport, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 2575 miles, £25304, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C200, SE, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 1711 miles, £23300, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C200, SE, 2008, carneol red metallic, 6600 miles, £20890, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C200, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 11511 miles, £24400, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C200, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 7774 miles, £26998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C200 CDI, Elegance COMAND, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 15173 miles, £25998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C200 CDI, SE, 2009, obsidian black metallic, 3000 miles, £23498, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C200 CDI, SE, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 5000 miles, £22161, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C200 CDI, Sport, 2008, cubanite silver metallic, 9814 miles, £25700, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C200 CDI, Sport, 2008, palladium silver metallic, 9366 miles, £23494, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C200 CDI, SPORTS SE, 2007, obsidian black metallic, 15230 miles, £15997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Elegance, 2008, palladium silver metallic, 6850 miles, £23997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, SE, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 1000 miles, £25800, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, palladium silver metallic, 7500 miles, £29997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 6000 miles, £27795, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, tansanite blue metallic, 13359 miles, £23463, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, SE, 2007, tenorite grey metallic, 10100 miles, £19896, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, SE, 2008, tenorite grey metallic, 8465 miles, £22100, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Elegance, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 5400 miles, £26200, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2009, palladium silver metallic, 7800 miles, £26997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2009, obsidian black metallic, 4000 miles, £26997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 6200 miles, £29997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport - Comand+, 2009, obsidian black metallic, 3500 miles, £28997, Ashford, 0845 481 6427 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, sanidine beige metallic, 5453 miles, £25448, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Elegance, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 8787 miles, £24998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, SE, 2008, tenorite grey metallic, 8657 miles, £18998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 11928 miles, £25998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 8921 miles, £27998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2009, palladium silver metallic, 990 miles, £27885, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Avantgarde SE, 2007, jasper blue metallic, 64228 miles, £14500, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Elegance, 2007, iridium silver metallic, 31800 miles, £18898, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, SE Sports Auto SE, 2006, jasper blue metallic, 44813 miles, £13999, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, tenorite grey metallic, 6373 miles, £25998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Avantgarde SE, 2007, jasper blue metallic, 36049 miles, £15580, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, palladium silver metallic, 25000 miles, £23780, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 2816 miles, £24580, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C220 CDI, Avantgarde SE, 2007, cubanite silver metallic, 32561 miles, £16748, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

C320 CDI, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 8805 miles, £29998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C320 CDI, Sport, 2008, iridium silver metallic, 10211 miles, £28998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

C350, Elegance, 2008, obsidian black metallic, 6000 miles, £29670, Maidstone, 0845 481 6487 (TRADE)

CL500, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 41 miles, £67500, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

CLC200 CDI, 2009, iridium silver metallic, 3000 miles, £19998, Canterbury, 0845 481 6437 (TRADE)

CLC200 CDI, 2009, cubanite silver metallic, 1101 miles, £21829, Tonbridge, 0845 481 6497 (TRADE)

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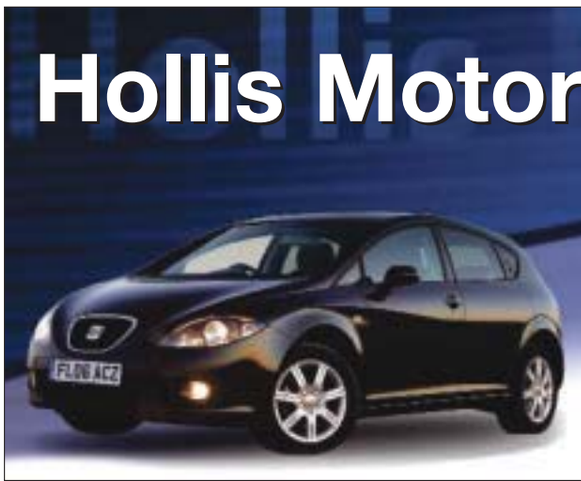

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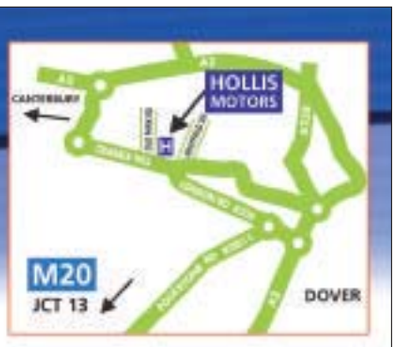

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L200, Double Cab 2.5 Td Trojan, ej56ych, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, central locking, computer, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, head restraints, leather seats, locking wheel nuts, power assisted steering, remote locking. silver, 27000 miles, £8395, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

L200, 2.5 Di-D Warrior Double Cab, dy07ovb, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, air conditioning, alloy wheels, anti theft system, central locking, computer, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, locking wheel nuts, immobiliser, power assisted steering, remote locking, traction control. grey, 34000 miles, £10495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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LANCER, 1.8 GS3 4dr, gk08ycg, abs, adjustable seats, alloy wheels, climate control, computer, cruise control, driver airbag, electric mirrors, electric windows, foglights, front armrest, head restraints, folding rear seats, immobiliser, passenger airbag, power assisted steering, remote locking, side airbags, radio/cd, rear headrests, traction control. insurance group:8, 3yrs / 37500 mile free servicing with this car, saving_, silver, 9000 miles, £12995, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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207, 1.4 Urban 3dr, gk57vxn, abs, adjustable seats, adjustable steering column/wheel, computer, driver airbag, folding rear seats, electric windows, immobiliser, head restraints, passenger airbag, radio/cd, power assisted steering, rear headrests, remote locking, side airbags. insurance group:3, blue, 4587 miles, £6495, Sittingbourne, 01795 429802 (TRADE)

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1999 colour Red, 1900cc diesel 89,000miles. MOT till March 2010 FSH, Tax till end of August 2009, 4 New tyres, excellent condition £2,100 ono
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Cash for bangers scheme fires up

UK SCRAPPAGE SCHEME

AFTER a few misfires, the Government scheme to persuade people to trade bangers for new cars was bump-started this week.

Most carmakers and participating (please note) dealers will give you at least £2,000 off a new motor if you allow them to drive your old one into the crusher, but it must be at least 10 years old.

Chancellor Darling's helping hand to motor industry and trade workers after months of tumbling new car registrations was soon shown to be half-hearted, since only 50 per cent of the cash comes from the Treasury – manufacturers and dealers must find the balance.

However, publicity has focused buyers on the chance of a new car and many currently running an older car through necessity or shrewdness, won't spurn help upgrading to a modern replacement that should be cheaper to fuel and tax, with the bonus of being more environmentally-friendly.

Those with market savvy will also know that further savings can be had if they twist the arms of dealers already stretched on the recession rack – check out offers elsewhere in our Scrappage special.

The best deals are those on the small, economical cars; with tight margins, you would normally be hard-pressed to get three figures sum off a city car or supermini, so the prospect of a two grand and more discount must not be dismissed lightly.

Trade sources had hoped for more Government help, but the motor industry's SMMT mouthpiece has been upbeat officially: "There has been a good response to the scheme ahead of the official start date and industry is confident that this will be translated into additional orders."

The dealers' Retail Motor Industry Federation (RMIF) echoed this: "We are confident that the scheme will provide a boost to the sector, and enable thousands of UK motorists to buy a new car."

However, the trade has been warned by HPI – which specialises in checking the provenance and insurance history of used cars – that criminals are expected to use or sell stolen V5 (logbook) documents to legitimise some old cars in order to get the £2,000 pay-off.

Hyundai has embraced the scrappage plan enthusiastically to enhance the existing value of cars like its impressive i10 city car, now available from £4,995, including air con and the usual Hyundai five-year warranty

What's the deal?

- To qualify for the basic £2,000 discount – some dealers offer more on selected models – the car or small van (up to 3,500kg) being scrapped must have been registered on or before August 31, 1999, have a valid MOT and been owned for at least 12 months by the driver applying to scrap the vehicle.
- The new vehicle can be a car or small van (up to 3,500kg) first registered in the UK on or after May 18, 2009, with no former keepers – this excludes dealer pre-registrations or nearly new stock.
- The scheme runs until March, 2010, or until the £300 million government pot is exhausted – assuming no more cash is added. The grant applies from the moment the order is processed, rather than when the new car is delivered.

PANDA 1.1 ACTIVE ECO	£4,995		
On the road price	£7,095	FIAT-ecoplus BONUS	£1,100
Government incentive	£1,000	Offer price	£4,995
£0 deposit, 4 year finance deal	6.5% APR Typical		

GRANDE PUNTO 1.4 ACTIVE 3 DOOR	£6,695		
On the road price	£9,650	FIAT-ecoplus BONUS	£1,955
Government incentive	£1,000	Offer price	£6,695
£0 deposit, 4 year finance deal	6.5% APR Typical		

At Fiat we have a saying, "Less is Genius". It means we believe in giving people the chance to buy great looking, economical and more ecologically friendly cars at affordable prices. We would like to thank Mr Darling for putting his weight behind this belief with his new scrappage scheme - a great idea that, you guessed it, helps give people the chance to buy great looking, economical and more ecologically friendly cars at affordable prices. So go to fiat.co.uk/scrappage or visit your local Fiat dealer to see how you can buy a Fiat Panda for £4,995 or a Fiat Grande Punto for £6,695.

FIAT-ecoplus+ BONUS Fiat. The car brand with the lowest average CO_2 emissions in Europe*

LESS IS GENIUS

NORTHGATE FIAT 01227 828200

1 WESTMINSTER ROAD, VAUXHALL IND ESTATE, CANTERBURY, KENT

Fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km): Fiat Panda 1.1 Active Eco, Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 68.4 (4.1), Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 emissions of 119g/km; Grande Punto 1.4 Active, Urban 37.7 (7.5), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 47.9 (5.9), CO_2 emissions of 139g/km.

Government scrappage payment applies to cars first registered on or before 31st Aug 1999 only when traded-in against new cars. Scrapped vehicle must have been registered to the purchaser for at least the 12 months preceding the purchase of the vehicle and be MOT'd, taxed and insured. Offer available on new models registered between the 18th May 2009 and 30th June 2009. Scheme Terms and Conditions apply. Offer subject to status. At participating dealers only. A guarantee or indemnity may be required. Fiat Financial Services, PO Box 108, Leeds LS27 0WU. Retail customers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offer. Terms & Conditions apply. Prices correct at time of printing. Offer may be varied and withdrawn at any time. *Source: Jato Dynamic. Volume-weighted average CO_2 emission g/km among European top 10 selling brands 2008.

FIAT

fiat.co.uk/scrappage

REASONS TO BE CHEERFUL

1 A new Kia from just £4,195* .
The Government and Kia will give you £2,000 towards a lovely new Kia when you scrap your old car. Mr Darling, we salute you.

2 Cleaner, more efficient cars are cheaper to run.
Lower emissions and lower Road Tax = lower running costs. Brilliant.

3 The Government giving away money.
Okay, so its the same as reason one, but it's so good we couldn't let it slide. Just hurry, before they change their minds.

Picanto - from £4,195* including Scrappage allowance

Rio - from £5,195* including Scrappage allowance

cee'd - from £7,995* including Scrappage allowance

Canterbury Kia
1 Westminster Road, Vauxhall Industrial Estate, Canterbury, CT1 1YY. 01227 828210

PICANTO RIO | CEE'D

KIA MOTORS

www.canterbury-kia.co.uk

FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES IN MPG (L/100KM) FOR THE VEHICLES SHOWN ARE ARE: URBAN: 47.9 (5.9) – 37.2 (7.6). EXTRA URBAN: 64.2 (4.4) – 54.3 (5.2). COMBINED: 57.6 (4.9) – 46.3 (6.1). OFFICIAL CO2 EMISSIONS ARE: 117 – 145 G/KM. *Models shown: Picanto 1.0 @ £4,195 On The Road (OTR); Rio 1.4 @ £5,195 OTR; cee'd 1.4 S @ £7,995 OTR. Prices include £2,000 Government and Kia Scrappage incentive. Government Scrappage incentive applies to cars or vans registered on or before 31 August 1999 only when traded in against new cars. Scrapped vehicles must have been registered to the purchaser for at least the 12 months preceding the purchase of the vehicle and be MOT'd and taxed. Terms and conditions apply. Prices correct at time of going to press and specification is subject to change without notice. OTR price includes VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months Government VED and vehicle first registration fee. 38220

Grant eases access to the Materia world

DAIHATSU'S decision to join the scrappage scheme brings a further cash boost to some of the best value cars on the UK market.

Two of the brand's favourites are the five-door Sirion supermini (from £8,320) and funky Materia mini-MPV (from £10,770 and pictured).

Both are roomy with low emission/high economy engines.

The grant may also work with existing discount deals on certain models and packages.

The Materia features a sliding rear bench seat allowing legroom/boot space to be adjusted from 21 inches of 'knee room' to just four and from 181 to 294 litres respectively.

The seat also folds flat, creating a huge loading area with plenty of height – ideal for that piece of flat-pack furniture.

Power comes from a 103PS (101bhp) 1.5-litre engine and standard specification includes air con plus electric (tinted rear) windows and mirrors.

The Materia also has a five-year unlimited mileage warranty.

A Daihatsu spokesman said: "In Japan, the Materia has attracted a cult following, and understandably so: practical, economical, spacious, and innovative, the Materia is a superbly stylish urban warrior that's equally happy taking the whole family on holiday, or nipping about in the city.

"An undeniable attention-grabber, it creates a strong reaction… something few vehicles do today."

Skoda goes for top-ups

SKODA is offering extra encouragement for customers to make one last, but financially attractive journey in their qualifying 10-year-old cars.

The Czech brand, currently the UK's number one for customer satisfaction (2009 Auto Express Driver Power Survey), is adding top up payments to the Government scheme.

So, the Skoda Fabia supermini now starts at just £5,995 – a saving of £1,000 from the Government plus a further £1,600 courtesy of Skoda.

The Octavia (pictured), Skoda's family model, is now available from only £8,995, with the brand adding £1,545 to the Government's £1,000.

The flagship Superb and popular Roomster mini-MPV have £2,500 off, with £1,500 of that contributed by Skoda.

There are also tempting Skoda Finance Solutions at participating dealers:

- Fabia 1 1.2 hatch from £59 per month (plus deposit)
- Roomster S 1.2 from £109 per month (plus deposit)
- Octavia S 1.4 hatch from £129 per month (plus deposit)
- Superb S TSI from £185 per month (plus deposit)

Skoda brand director Robert Hazelwood said: "With our award-winning cars, personal service and affordable finance offers, we should be the first port of call for anyone looking to take advantage of the Government's scrappage scheme, which is welcome news for the motor industry."

TURN YOUR RUST INTO LUST.

With £2,000 from the new Scrap Incentive.*

207 VERVE 3 DR
NOW from **£8,740**

- **ALLOY WHEELS • AIR CONDITIONING**
- **BLUETOOTH • 5 STAR NCAP RATING**
- **6 AIRBAGS**

Price includes:

Government scrap bonus:	£1,000
Peugeot scrap bonus:	£1,000
Additional Robins & Day saving:	£1,300
Total saving:	**£3,300**

308 VERVE 5 DR
NOW from **£10,995**

- **ALLOY WHEELS • AIR CONDITIONING**
- **BLUETOOTH • 5 STAR NCAP RATING**
- **6 AIRBAGS**

Price includes:

Government scrap bonus:	£1,000
Peugeot scrap bonus:	£1,000
Additional Robins & Day saving:	£2,300
Total saving:	**£4,300**

high fuel economy No.1 low CO_2 emissions 2008 Market leader in low CO_2 cars

SCRAPPAGE BONUS

Scrap your old car and you'll get £2,000 to spend on a new one – £1,000 from the Government and £1,000 from Peugeot. Your old car just needs to be registered before 31st July 1999, and you need to have owned it for at least 12 months as well as have a current MOT and tax disc.

On top of that, there are some great savings to be had on selected models within the Peugeot range. So you can enjoy a brand new Peugeot from the No.1 manufacturer of low-emissions cars,† as well as a 3-year warranty. What you might call money for old rust.

PEUGEOT

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Peugeot's Largest Dealer Group
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Tel: 0844 567 1871

MAIDSTONE
Mill Street, Maidstone
Tel: 0844 567 1952

ROCHESTER
209 High Street, Rochester
Tel: 0844 567 2017

The official fuel consumption in mpg (l/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) for the 207 range are: Urban 28.5 – 49.5 (9.9 – 5.7), Extra Urban 49.5 – 76.3 (5.7 – 3.7), Combined 39.2 – 64.1 (7.2 – 4.4) and CO_2 117 – 171 (G/KM) and the 308 range are: Urban 24.78 – 49.5 (11.4 – 5.7), Extra Urban 47.08–74.34 (6.0 – 3.8), Combined 35.76 – 62.7 (7.9 – 4.5) and CO_2 120 – 188 (G/KM).

Prices quoted are on the road and include delivery to dealership, number plates, 12 months' Government Vehicle Excise Duty, £55.00 Government First Registration Fee and £2,000 Government scrap bonus (£1,000 from the Government and £1,000 from Peugeot). Customer savings relate to savings against published list price of vehicle. Different offers available in Northern Ireland and Channel Islands. Offers apply to vehicles registered from 18th May 2009 until such point as they may be withdrawn Peugeot Motor Company PLC at its discretion. Offers subject to availability. †In 2008 Peugeot was market leading manufacturer in the UK for sales of cars within the lowest CO_2 emission categories (sub 120 g/km, and sub 130g/km). *To qualify for the government support, vehicles registered on or before 31st July 1999 must be presented with a certificate of destruction (C.O.D), provided by an authorised treatment facility (ATF), a V5, valid MOT, be insured, legal to be driven on the highway and has been registered in the customers name for a minimum of 1 year when traded in against a new car. For further information visit www.peugeot.co.uk/scrappage.

‘Better late than never’ Citroën tells rivals

CITROEN has been celebrating its own scrappage trade-in offers since April 1 – weeks before the official government scheme went live on Monday.

Headline deals include a credit crunch busting half price and more offer on the Xsara Picasso 1.6i 110hp Desire (pictured).

The classic MPV can be driven away for just £7,995 after the £2,000 scrappage incentive, split between the Treasury and Citroën, and with a further £6,400 cashback discount from the French brand.

In addition to the £2,000 saving for scrapping cars more than 10 years old, Citroën is also offering an additional £1,000 discount (£3,000 in total) on all award-winning C5 and C6 models for orders placed before the end of May, as well as the low emissions C4 Airdream+ special edition and stylish seven-seat Grand C4 Picasso 1.6 150hp EGS Exclusive MPV.

The range also includes the C1 city car and budget MPVs like the Berlingo Multispace as well as the classy seven-seat C-Crosser SUV.

Citroën UK MD Xavier Duchemin said: “As other vehicle manufacturers follow in our footsteps and begin their scrappage incentives, we are pleased to be continuing to promote the replacement of older, more polluting vehicles with cleaner, safer and more economical models.”

Great deals on offer from Peugeot

PEUGEOT is making it clear that its support for the scrappage scheme extends to both cars and vans – and you might not even need a scrap vehicle.

Some of the best deals are on Peugeot’s best-selling 207 hatchback range (pictured), Europe’s best-selling low CO2 car of 2008, in both the sub-121g/km and 131g/km sectors.

In well-equipped Verve specification, the 207 is available under the government scheme for just £8,740 – a customer saving of £3,300 off the original retail price of £12,040.

This is made up from current consumer offers of £1,300 and £2,000 – £1,000 from the Government and a further £1,000 from Peugeot.

The carmaker is also extending its £1,000 scrappage discount to customers without a car to scrap, making the 207 Verve available at £9,740.

Other Peugeots available on keen ‘scrap swaps’ against a 10-year-old car, include the Peugeot 107 Urban Lite city car, available at £5,945, while customers can also save £4,300 on the Peugeot 308 Verve or £2,725 on the latest Peugeot Bipper Van.

The scheme runs from May 18, 2009 to February 28, 2010, or until the £300 million government scrappage funding runs out.

For more information on Peugeot deals on cars and vans see www.peugeot.co.uk.

TOYOTA

Yaris T_2 1.0 3 door

Now only **£6,805**^

Save £2,500 including Toyota/ Government Scrappage Allowance#

Auris T_2 1.33 3 door

Now only **£9,900**^

Save £3,000 including Toyota/ Government Scrappage Allowance#

Scrap your 10+ year old car for any new Toyota and not only will you get a minimum £2,000 saving, you’ll also get a car with Toyota Optimal Drive. This means lower road tax, lower CO_2 and better fuel economy. As for your old car, we’ll recycle it. So not only is a new Toyota easier on your pocket, it’s easier on the environment. To find out more visit toyota.co.uk/scrappage

Toyota supports the **UK Scrappage Scheme**

TOYOTA OPTIMAL DRIVE — HIGHER PERFORMANCE LOWER CO_2 BETTER FUEL ECONOMY

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The Crescent Tel: 01233 505222

Canterbury
Broad Oak Road Tel: 01227 764444

Tunbridge Wells
Dowding Way Tel: 01892 700 500

Today Tomorrow Toyota

Models shown: Yaris T_2 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £9,305; Auris T_2 1.33 VVT-i 3 door £12,900. ^Metallic paint £370 extra. #The Government Scrappage Incentive Allowance saving applies to retail customers trading in a vehicle first registered on or before 31 .08.99 against the purchase of a new Toyota when ordered between 01.05.09 and 30.06.09 for registration between 18.05.09 and 30.09.09. Offers available at participating Centres only. To qualify for the Scrappage Incentive Allowance the owner of the trade in vehicle must be named as the registered keeper and resident at the UK address shown on the Vehicle Registration Document (V5) and have owned the vehicle for a minimum of 1 year. The new vehicle must be registered in the same name. The vehicle must have a valid MOT certificate at the order date of the new vehicle. The Scrappage Incentive Allowance offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers. Not applicable to Isle of Man or Channel Islands. Full details of terms and conditions are available on www.toyota.co.uk/scrappage

Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Yaris T2 1.0 VVT-i Manual, Urban 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 56.5 (5.0), CO_2 Emissions 118g/km; Auris T2 1.33 VVT-i Manual, Urban 39.8 (7.1), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 48.7 (5.8), CO_2 Emissions 135g/km

Don't worry, be happy' says the new Alfa MiTo

FOR the first time since the fall of the Berlin Wall, when petrol cost 38p/litre and Bobby McFerrin sang Don't Worry, Be Happy, a brand new Alfa Romeo costs less than £9,000.

It has been made possible by the scrappage scheme, which entitles eligible motorists to own a stunning Alfa MiTo (pictured) for just £8,995. The last Alfa Romeo to be sold in the UK for under £9,000 was the five-door Alfa 33 in 1989.

Twenty years on, Alfa Romeo's head-turning Alfa MiTo supermini hatchback boasts innovative technology and safety features that didn't even exist when the Alfa 33 was launched.

Unlike any other compact car in the sector, every Alfa MiTo features as standard equipment: air con, electric power-assisted steering, alarm and immobiliser, electric windows, electrically adjustable door mirrors, LED rear lights, seven airbags, VDC (ABS+ASR+Brake Assist) with Hill Holder, and CD/MP3 sound system.

On selected Alfa Romeo models, there are further discounts of up to £3,000 in addition to the government's incentive.

For more information on the charismatic Italian brand's range and details of the UK scrappage scheme, log on to www.alfaromeo.co.uk or visit your local Alfa Romeo dealer in Kent.

Go premium by scrapping

VOLVO says it will not only support the scrappage scheme, but go further on its upmarket range of cars.

This means that scrappage customers for its Volvo C30 1.6 R-Design get a total of £3,849 off list price.

And the deals even extend to new eco-friendly DRIVe-badged versions of key Volvo models, with their lower emissions and improved fuel consumption.

For instance, a C30 DRIVe with Start/Stop is available for a total saving of £4,027, with the additional £2,027 on top of the Government scheme being donated by the Swedish brand.

The S40 DRIVe S saloon with Start/Stop features an even greater saving of £4,377.

And the offers are not just available on the smaller models.

Customers can drive away a new Volvo S80 DRIVe SE executive saloon with a saving of £5,210 off list price, while the newly-launched Volvo XC60 2.4D DRIVe SUV is available with a £4,640 saving.

Even the big XC90 seven-seat SUV can be had for a whopping £6,841 off its official price.

In addition to such savings, environmentally-aware customers can budget further with the C30, S40 and V50 DRIVe models – all qualify for £35/year road tax and should average more than 70mpg.

£1000 OFF The Materia (excluding Auto) and the Terios S – at your local friendly Daihatsu garage.

Spring SAVERS

MATERIA was £10,775 NOW FROM ONLY £9,775
Grabs attention. Holds everything.
Not your typical MPV, the Materia offers exceptional interior space. With superb levels of standard equipment and distinctive styling, the Materia is sure to stand out from the crowd! Now with £1000 off the Materia (excluding Auto) registered between 1st April and 30th June 2009

TERIOS S was £12,725 NOW FROM ONLY £11,725
Alternative Thinking.
The Terios is shorter than a Golf, has a better turning circle than a Clio, the interior space of a much bigger car and a large boot. Now with £1000 off on all Terios S models registered between 1st April and 30th June 2009.

OFFERS END 30TH JUNE WHILE STOCKS LAST.

SIRION From only £8,320
The Super-dupermini
Now with a choice of 1.0, 1.3 or 1.5 litre models, all providing outstanding interior space, easy access and superb levels of equipment, including air conditioning, electric windows and CD/Radio system with MP3 AUX input.

Copen From only £11,745
So much fun. So little cost.
With a new high performance 1.3 litre engine, the Copen provides a fun-filled but still economical drive, and an electrically retractable hardtop roof that's up or down in just 20 seconds, means you can react to rain or shine at the touch of a button.

5 YEARS FREE WARRANTY · 5 YEARS FREE ROAD SIDE ASSISTANCE · CALL IN FOR A CHAT · AWARD WINNING QUALITY · LOW EMISSIONS · FUEL EFFICIENT · LOW ROAD TAX

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Call Dennis now on 01303 275795
or visit www.daihatsu.co.uk for more details.

£1000 off Spring offer available on all Materia manual models and Terios S model only. Models shown are Terios 1.5 S now available at £11,725 OTR including £1000 price offer, Materia 1.5 with manual transmission now available at £9,775 OTR including £1000 price offer, Sirion 1.3 available at £8,300 OTR and Copen 1.3 available at £11,745 OTR. Metallic paint is an extra cost on all vehicles. £1000 off is only available on cars registered between 1st April 2009 and 30th June 2009. All prices include £55 first registration fee and 12 months road fund licence. For further details please contact your Daihatsu dealer. Price is correct at time of going to print. Award winning reliability, as published in the 'Which?' Magazines Car Awards 2008.

Official government fuel consumption figures for passenger cars mpg (litres/100km) and CO_2 emissions (g/km) Urban Cycle 26.4 (10.7) – 46.3 (6.1) Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) – 64.2 (4.4) Combined 33.2 (8.5) – 56.5 (5.0) CO_2 emissions 118 – 201

Toyota wants us to 'Scrap for Britain!'

TOYOTA is aiming for a double benefit to Britain by building scrappage incentives around the Auris family hatchback (pictured) line-up.

This car is built at the Japanese brand's Burnaston plant in Derbyshire, so it will benefit British production jobs as well as the trade.

It will also be available under various purchasing deals such as private contract hire offers – increasingly popular as recession-hit buyers shop for a package that delivers a fixed motoring budget.

Toyota UK MD Miguel Fonseca said: "While Toyota has some of the best small cars on the market in the shape of Aygo and Yaris, we recognise that small cars do not meet the needs of everyone in terms of space and practicality.

"By leveraging the benefits of local production we can make Auris affordable for customers who need a family car.

"I am also very keen to use this incentive as much as possible to the benefit of British workers."

Thanks to Toyota Optimal Drive engine technology across the range, the Auris offers reduced fuel consumption and emissions, leading to lower fuel and road tax costs.

Toyota's legendary reliability and low service/maintenance costs should also keep bills down and increase the car's appeal to 'scrappage drivers'.

VW hopes scrappage buyers play green card

VOLKSWAGEN hopes the scrappage scheme will help remove older cars from our roads, replacing them with safer and more environmentally-friendly models.

All vehicles in the Volkswagen range are included in the scheme so Volkswagen ownership starts from just £4,845, with grant aid, for the three-door Fox city car.

This delivers a vehicle with a more premium badge at a very affordable price, but if you need extra space or doors then the three/five-door Polo supermini is next up from £6,345.

Then there is the latest Golf (pictured), recently crowned World Car of the Year, which can be driven away for as little as £11,585 – it would be extremely hard to get money off a pace-setter such as this normally.

Check out deals too on the Touran people carrier – available with seven seats – and the Passat saloon, coupé and estate.

But VW clearly hopes that many scrappage customers will take the chance to trade up to one of the German brand's BlueMotion versions of popular models, which use aerodynamics and other tweaks to cut fuel consumption, emissions and road tax, thereby taking an older, more polluting car off the road in favour of a leaner, meaner and greener version.

YOU'RE LATE DARLING...

WANTED! OLD CAR
CITROËN SCRAPPAGE SCHEME

OUR £2,000 SCRAPPAGE SCHEME* HAS ALREADY STARTED.

With Citroen you dont need to wait to take advantage of the Governments new scrappage scheme. Right now we're giving you our £2000 Scrappage Allowance* for your qualifying old car when you trade it in for any new Citroen car. Visit us now, or www.citroen.co.uk for more details, conditions apply. You'll need to be quick, as our stocks are limited. Better late than never Darling!

CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIE

CITROËN

*GUARANTEED £2000 SCRAPPAGE CASHBACK FOR YOUR OLD CAR WILL APPLY TO CUSTOMERS TRADING IN A QUALIFYING VEHICLE FIRST REGISTERED BEFORE 1ST JANUARY 2000 AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF NEW CITROËN CARS ORDERED BETWEEN 23/04/09 AND 30/04/09 FOR REGISTRATION BY 30/06/09, FROM PARTICIPATING DEALERS. TO QUALIFY FOR THE CASHBACK, VEHICLES MUST BE PRESENTED WITH A CERTIFICATE OF DESTRUCTION (C.O.D) PROVIDED BY AN AUTHORISED TREATMENT FACILITY (ATF), A VS, VALID MOT, BE PROPERLY INSURED, LEGAL TO BE DRIVEN ON THE HIGHWAY AND HAVE BEEN REGISTERED IN THE CUSTOMERS NAME FOR A MINIMUM OF 1 YEAR. THIS GUARANTEED CASHBACK IS THE TOTAL VALUE THAT A CUSTOMER WILL RECEIVE FROM THE MANUFACTURER WHEN TRADING IN THEIR QUALIFYING PART EXCHANGE FOR A NEW CITROËN MODEL. WHERE A SCRAPPAGE ALLOWANCE IS PAID AGAINST THE PURCHASE OF A NEW C1, C2, C3 PLURIEL OR C3 PICASSO MODEL, NO OTHER MANUFACTURERS CASHBACK WILL BE AVAILABLE. SEE DEALER FOR FULL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (RANGE LOWEST - HIGHEST): URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO2 EMISSIONS (G/KM); LOWEST: C1 1.0i 12V 68HP 5.5/51.4, 3.9/72.4, 4.5/62.8, 106. HIGHEST C6 2.7HDi V6 208HP DPFS AUTO 12.0/23.5, 6.8/41.5. 8.7/32.5, 230.

BARRETTS CITROËN - CANTERBURY 01227 828999

WESTGATE, CANTERBURY, KENT, CT1 2BL www.barrettscanterbury.citroen.co.uk

Fiat's 'Grande' gesture

FIAT has scrapped plans to sell the popular Grande Punto 1.4 Active three-door for £6,995 under the Government's scrappage scheme – it is offering it for £6,695 instead.

This means that the 1.4 Active – normally costing £9,650 and pictured – not only delivers the £1,000 Treasury rebate to motorists scrapping their old car, but attracts a £1,655 Fiat handout on top that has now been increased to £1,955.

This Grande Punto version also comes with the option of a special four-year finance deal for just £119 a month.

The offer forms part of the 'Fiat-eco plus' campaign to persuade drivers to scrap their old 'banger' and replace it with a cleaner, safer and more economical new vehicle.

Powered by a frugal, low-emission 1,368cc petrol engine the Grande Punto 1.4 Active has a top speed of 103 mph. The 77bhp engine can average nearly 50mpg.

Standard equipment includes electric front windows, remote central locking, driver and passenger airbags, ABS and braking aids and Blue&Me – Fiat's hands-free telecommunications and entertainment system.

Fiat's versatile five-door Panda city car is also available for an incredible price under the Scrappage scheme and Fiat-eco plus – a Panda 1.1 Active ECO now costs £4995, saving £2,100.

Chevy levy can exceed £2,000

CHEVROLET has used the scrappage scheme to deliver the tempting prospect of a new car for just over £4,000.

Or £4,295 to be precise, after grant aid for the entry level version of its five-door Matiz 0.8 S city car (pictured).

With its 119g/km CO2 emissions, low insurance and an average of nearly 55mpg, the Matiz is perfect for motorists looking to crush their motoring costs as well as their tired old car.

It is a package likely to appeal to those on the tightest budgets such as students, young families and older people who could not normally aspire to a new car, but like the idea of big savings upfront and then the benefits of owning a car that is so cheap to run.

But there are deals too on larger Chevrolets such as the new Aveo supermini, available from only £5,765 in conjunction with the £2,000 cash-for-scrap discount, while the Lacetti hatchback and estate line-up is on offer from only £7,495 – this range normally starts from around £10,200 and already represents good value for money.

Look out for deals too on the Epica family saloon – normally from £14,225 – and Captiva five/seven-seat SUV cum people carrier (from £17,000).

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Acceptance fee*	£125.00
Option to purchase fee**	£60.00
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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Range: Urban 27.7 (10.2) – 53.3 (5.3), Extra-urban 47.1 (6.0) – 83.1 (3.4), Combined 37.7 (7.5) – 68.9 (4.1). CO_2 emissions for the Fabia Range 109 – 180g/km. Retail Sales only. *Payable with first payment. **Payable with optional final payment. Further charges may be payable if vehicle is returned. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available to over 18s for registrations before 30 June 2009. Škoda Finance, Freepost Škoda Finance. The scrappage saving is dependent on your vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. The Government scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31 August 1999 when traded-in against a new car, subject to terms and conditions. Offer is subject to vehicle availability from participating retailers and may be varied or withdrawn at any time. Please ask your local retailer for full terms and conditions.

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A growing reputation and a timely acquisition

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

TIME doesn't stand still, which means there'll always be a demand for services for elderly people – even in a recession.

And that's good news for healthcare sector firms able to take advantage of opportunities.

Staplehurst-based Southern Care Maintenance (SCM) has just announced a five-figure deal for Chatham-based Wealden Rehab's nursing equipment maintenance and servicing division.

SCM managing director David Knight said: "Many companies are taking a long, hard look at their business during the economic downturn.

"Fortunately for us, the South East has an increasingly ageing population, so demand for supply and maintenance of equipment in hospitals and residential care homes is also increasing."

It is SCM's first acquisition in its 20-year history of providing service and maintenance contracts to fire, safety and intercom projects throughout the region.

Mr Knight said: "Our company has grown steadily and organically, largely by recommendation.

"This acquisition means can now improve our service to care homes and hospitals even further, by maintaining and servicing equipment such as hoists and bath lifts, as well as their fire, security and alarm call systems."

An ISO-registered firm, the Staplehurst-based company prides itself on offering 24-hour on-site maintenance to clients – and a friendly voice on the end of the telephone 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Mr Knight said: "Our personal service is highly-prized and one of the prime reasons our customers keep coming back."

It services and maintains more than 500 sites in Kent alone and its fleet of engineers are on a rapid response service to the whole of the South East.

Clients include award-winning Caring Homes Group, which operate 24 homes in the South East, including properties in Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks and Bromley.

Wealden Rehab will continue to supply and install nursing mobility equipment, such as hoists and lifts, to care homes and hospitals, but all servicing and maintenance will now be undertaken by SCM.

HIGH-speed trains and identifying land which could be set aside for commercial use are key topics at the next conference of C4B – Canterbury for Business – on Tuesday, June 2.

Speakers include Colin Carmichael, chief executive of the city council; and Vince Lucas, of Southeastern Trains, who will talk about the high-speed link and its impact. Nick Churchill, development policy and projects officer, and Adrian Verrall, planning policy manager, will give a presentation about land opportunities and resources. Canterbury Christ Church University's student entrepreneurship awards and the council's first Enviroplus awards will also be presented at the conference.

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By TONY PATEY
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

New generation needs a lifeline

A DESPERATE plea has gone out round the region for construction firms willing to take on apprentices who risk losing their training if their original firm lays off workers or goes bust.

In the South East, the Apprenticeship Matching Scheme (AMS), aimed at helping apprentices who face losing their jobs, now has more than 56 'at risk' trainees on its books.

While a regional team from ConstructionSkills, the sector skills council, has already helped seven of them to find new employment, rising numbers have prompted calls for about 22 additional businesses to offer lifelines.

Apprentices in bricklaying, carpentry and joinery are the most affected in terms of displaced apprentices with shopfitting, scaffolding and tiling being the least affected trades.

Robbie Beecher, apprenticeship manager for ConstructionSkills South East, said: "The severity of the downturn means the construction industry faces many challenges and continuing the development of the next generation of workers is at the forefront of these.

"More apprentices are at risk of being laid off, and to stem this tide we need more employers who have the capacity to offer training opportunities to these young people.

"If this doesn't happen the construction sector risks seeing the continuation of skills shortages that have plagued the industry since the last recession, caused by laying off experienced workers and reducing the number of recruits."

The AMS was established with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) at the end of 2008, but is now entering a wider-scale operation. It offers a broad range of support services to help businesses in the South East retain apprentices through the downturn, including mentoring for apprentices, advice for employers about other business support, and help with paperwork.

PLEA: Robbie Beecher

To ease financial and administrative implications of training an apprentice and keep up opportunities for completion, ConstructionSkills has also introduced training models and is working with employers to explore options. To ensure continued demand from construction firms for apprentices, ConstructionSkills is also working with public sector bodies so they highlight the policy – granted by the Government in 2008's pre-Budget Review and included in new Office of Government Commerce procurement guidelines, which says firms that use apprentices can be prioritised for publicly funded projects.

BOOMING hairdressing group Rush London, which has three salons in Kent, is "most likely" to be opening others in the county in a big expansion programme, said a company spokeswoman.

It aims to create 500 jobs in the next seven months – and many could be in Kent. The 37-salon group has branches in Tunbridge Wells, Canterbury and Maidstone. Chairman Andrew Phouli said: "Hair doesn't stop growing during a recession and you can't get your hair cut online. Rush is recession proof."

Growth spurt at new Asda hub supplier

SUPPLY AND DEMAND: Colin Williams at Asda's store in Sturry Road, Canterbury

ABOUT 20 new jobs are on the agenda after Thanet-based Invicta Produce was named the new regional distribution hub by supermarket giant Asda.

Invicta managing director Colin Williams predicts strong growth on the back of the deal. He said: "We expect to more than double our business this year and will be taking on more staff to sustain this growth."

Invicta, formed nine years ago by Mr Williams, has a £3 million-a-year turnover and employs about 30 full-time staff.

It began by packing, processing and marketing Thanet cauliflowers. Other crops such as broccoli and cabbages became part of the business and it moved to Manston Business Park in December, 2005.

The link with Asda grew from small beginnings. Said Mr Williams: "We have gone from strength to strength and throughout this time have done small amounts of business with Asda, but always indirectly.

"During 2007-08 the volume grew and became programmed, regular business and we now supply most vegetables available from Kent to Asda stores.

"Asda has asked us to source other fresh produce. This will be great for Invicta and great for local growers and farmers."

Paul Dover, Asda customer planning manager, said: "We've pioneered the concept of using a local distributor or hub to act as a reference point that makes it easy for small fresh-food producers to get their products into a major chain.

"We've been working with hubs since 2002 and know how to make the business model work. The quality and commitment from suppliers in Kent is phenomenal."

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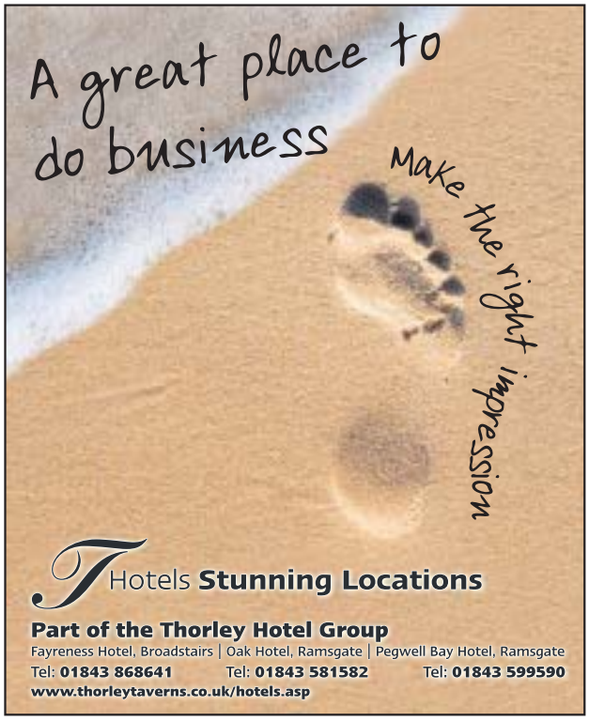

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MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type **R%:** Rate percentage **L:** Loan **U:** Until **OD:** Other details

FIXED

PRINCIPALITY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 4.79% **L:** 75% **U:** 30/06 /2012
OD: £1,339

WOOLWICH
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.69% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/07/2011
OD: £1,329

MARSDEN
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.59% **L:** 75% **U:** 31/05/2011
OD: £1,123

ABBEY
RT: FIXED **R%:** 3.65% **L:** 70% **U:** 02/08/2011
OD: £1,255

OTHER

NATIONWIDE
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.38% **L:** 75% **U:** 3 YEARS
OD: £1,015

WOOLWICH
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 3.24% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/07/2012
OD: £1,034

MARSDEN
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.99% **L:** 70% **U:** 31/05/2011
OD: £1,123

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER
RT: TRACKER **R%:** 2.99% **L:** 75% **U:** 2 YEARS
OD: £2,310

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Movers & Shakers

LAW firm Buss Murton has promoted its Tunbridge Wells solicitor Reshma Field to the partnership. She joined the firm in 1999 and qualified with the firm in that office.

She now leads the private client team specialising in inheritance tax planning, wills, probate administration and trusts.

Reshma, pictured right, is an active member of the community and a full-time working mother with two young children at school in Tonbridge. She's committed to the advancement of women in the workplace and is an active supporter of the local Hospice in the Weald, having recently raised over £400 by organising a ladies' evening in conjunction with the firm. Senior partner Alan Williams said: "Her promotion underlines the planned expansion of our private client services in Tunbridge Wells as well as in Cranbrook, following the recruitment of Justin Foster and the relocation of Graham Edwards to the Cranbrook office."

JON Strange, general manager of Canterbury-based EC Parker insurance brokers, has been appointed new president of the Insurance Institute for the city, Folkestone and east Kent. He takes over from Peter Searby.

Jon, pictured right, said: "The Institute not only provides support for those studying towards qualifications but also continuing professional development and great social events throughout the year. We are developing a new website which is planned to launch soon."

CANTERBURY'S Richard Durrant, who works for Thanet-based solicitors Boys & Maughan, has become the first legal executive in Kent to be made a partner under the changes under the Legal Services Act 2007, which allow the creation of legal disciplinary partnerships (LDPs).

Up to now only solicitors could enter into partnerships with other solicitors.

Richard, pictured right, is a conveyancing lawyer specialising in residential property sales, purchases, remortgages and transfers of equity. He has been a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives since 2006. He said: "It is gratifying that there is now recognition of the fact that lawyers in all branches of the profession have an equal contribution to make. There are a good number of legal executives who would make excellent partners as a result of this change in law.

"I am sure that in the future other legal executives like me will be taking a key role in the development of legal services."

Boys & Maughan's senior partner Jonathan Austin said: "We are delighted to be among the first in the country to take advantage of this development and for Richard's role to be properly recognised – there could be no more suitable candidate."

Boys & Maughan has been providing legal help to people in Kent and beyond for over 200 years and now has more than 60 partners and staff at offices in Margate, Birchington, Broadstairs and Ramsgate.

A legal executive specialises in a particular area of law, and will have been trained to the same standard as a solicitor in that area.

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MALE AGED 25		MALE AGED 40		FEMALE AGED 25		FEMALE AGED 40	
LEGAL & GENERAL	£7.55	ZURICH	£17.65	L&G (ELECTRONIC)	£6.05	LV=	£14.23
N UNION (SIMPLIFIED)	£7.83	BRIGHT GREY	£17.80	N UNION (SIMPLIFIED)	£6.17	ZURICH	£14.50
NORWICH UNION	£8.30	NORWICH UNION	£18.05	LV=	£6.34	BRIGHT GREY	£14.58
AXA	£8.31	AEGON SCOT EQ	£18.13	FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£7.01	NORWICH UNION	£14.60
SCOTTISH PRVDNT	£8.35	N UNION (SIMPLIFIED)	£18.28	AEGON SCOT EQ	£7.07	N UNION(SIMPLIFIED)	£14.66
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	£8.47	LEGAL & GENERAL	£18.35	NORWICH UNION	£7.10	LEGAL & GENERAL	£14.75
LV=	£8.54	LV=	£18.40	LEGAL & GENERAL	£7.10	AEGON SCOT EQ	£14.92

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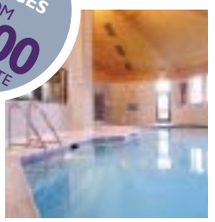

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Brave step pays off as fee system shows the way ahead

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Barry Williams is a perfect example of a businessman who likes to have links with the community. A former member of Dover District Council, he is a Chamber of Commerce board member and a school governor.

For more than 20 years he has been a financial advisor and he runs a family business, Regency Independent Financial Advisors, in Dover. He has clients from across Kent and as far away as Stoke-on-Trent.

The secret of his success is simple. Barry recognised some time ago that customers wanted a different kind of relationship, one more open and transparent. Since the 1990s the financial advice industry has seen several mis-selling scandals such as pensions and endowments, raising concerns that commissions were dictating what was being offered.

So five years ago Mr Williams took a brave step by becoming one of the first financial advisors in the UK to offer a fee-based service, accessible to all. It raised eyebrows, but clients liked it and they were the ones who counted. Business has boomed as a result. Barry's clients come from all walks of life and include individuals as well as businesses. Under his system, those whose needs are relatively simple pay a low fee. He spoke to KOS Media business editor Tony Patey.

Q *What services do you offer?*

A I take a holistic view of a client's financial health. My role is that of a financial educator. I ask clients what they wish to achieve financially, now and in the future.

I consider the investments they have and how we can best move them to where they want to be. This approach enables me to provide a comprehensive financial planning service.

The first meeting is free and without obligation, so a person has the opportunity to get to know me and see how I work. When I work with small businesses, I help the owner plan financially and for retirement.

I can also help them protect their business and income in the event of problems such as illness.

Many employers are also keen to help their staff plan for retirement but do not have the expertise themselves, so I advise individual employees or offer group talks. I'm also asked to help when people are being made redundant. Employees may have relatively large lump sums but no guarantee of regular income in the immediate future.

BARRY WILLIAMS: Holistic view of finance

I also do free and open seminars for anyone interested. I've got one in Canterbury on June 17.

Q *What was your early background in the industry?*

A I began as a trainee with a large insurance company, gaining a broad grounding in all aspects of this type of work. I worked for them for a number of years and went on to become their training and competence manager.

I set up my own business in 1998. I wanted to have the flexibility to devise my own approach.

My aim was to offer the highest possible standards of financial advice and customer service. I also wanted to offer anyone, regardless their income level, an affordable service to plan their financial future.

Q *What is your view of the industry in the current economic downturn?*

A Financial advisors who are transparent about their charges, forward-thinking and offer the highest standards will prosper. Those who don't will struggle.

Q *What would your advice be for a youngster wanting to start a career as an independent financial advisor?*

A Get broad experience early in your career. Once you have developed your skills and confidence, you can't beat running your own business.

There is a great deal of satisfaction in helping people and knowing you are making a difference to their lives. Many of my clients have been with me since I set up the business, so I feel like a family friend.

Q *How do you relax?*

A With a good book or film. And I like good food and wine – and a pint of real ale.

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Decline rate falls as landlords fight it out

TENANT demand across all sectors in the South East has followed the national trend and fallen in the first three months of this year, although the pace of decline has eased back, ***writes Tony Patey***.

So says the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in its latest commercial property survey, but it reckons surveyors expect rental declines to accelerate on the back of a record increase in available floor space.

The net balance of surveyors reporting a rise in available floor space rose at the fastest pace in the survey's history, as 65 per cent more reported a rise than a fall in available floor space, up from 57 per cent in the previous quarter.

The ongoing contraction in the economy and the continuing rise in available floor space have weighed on surveyor expectations for the rental outlook.

Surveyors are now more pessimistic than ever before with 80 per cent expecting a fall in rents. The value of inducements – a leading indicator of future rental trends – rose at the fastest pace in the survey's history as landlords continued to try to boost demand with incentives.

Forty per cent more chartered surveyors reported a fall than a rise in occupier demand compared with 71 per cent in the last three months of 2008.

All sectors remain firmly in negative territory for the sixth consecutive quarter but the pace of decline moderated from record lows.

This improvement offers some hope that the dramatic easing in monetary policy and fiscal stimulus measures are providing some support to the commercial property market by lifting business confidence.

The immediate outlook for lettings activity remains poor as the net balance of surveyors reporting new occupier inquiries remained in negative territory.

However 38 per cent more chartered surveyors reported a fall than a rise in new inquiries for business space compared with 63 per cent in the last quarter – the least negative reading in a year. The improving inquiry trend was most pronounced in the south.

Peter Miller, RICS' South East director, said: "Landlords are ramping up inducements as they attempt to secure a letting with sharply rising available space exerting greater downward pressure on rents.

"While it is still too soon to point to an end in price falls, deal activity should be picking up by the end of the year as those with deep pockets move in.

"Given the gloomy backdrop for the sector and expectation of further rises in vacant space, RICS is disappointed the Government failed to address the issue of empty property rates in the recent Budget.

"This is encouraging the demolition of perfectly good buildings, discouraging speculative development and could result in more far-reaching problems when the economy starts to pick up again."

Stuart Jerden, from Person Gore in Ramsgate, said: "There are challenging market conditions which have impacted upon confidence and demand in all sectors."

And Roger Miller, from Michael Rogers in Tunbridge Wells, said: "Freehold demand remains very weak as a result of funding availability.

"Rental demand is stronger but fragile. Investment demand depends on quality. Good quality will let. Investments remain in demand, albeit at higher yields."

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Solid foundations at Eclipse Park

COMMERCIAL property markets have taken a hammering but they are far from dead, ***writes Tony Patey***.

Most of the speculative side may have been put on hold, yet activity is still going on and there are definite signs that the credit squeeze might just be starting to ease.

Solid, well-established companies which were following long-term visions long before the recession have managed to weather the storm. Firms such as the Aylesford-based Gallagher Group, one of Kent's largest construction and property businesses.

It's well-known for high-profile successful projects such as the £90 million Eclipse Park just north-east of Maidstone – still being worked on despite the downturn – but it's also, for example, a leading provider of property-related services.

It was started 40 years ago by chairman Pat Gallagher as a civil engineering and groundworks contractor, activities which still form the core of the business, and it branched into property development, 'design and build' contracting, plant and quarrying.

ECLIPSE PARK: Weathering the storm

Chief executive Nick Yandle said: "We have always been in Kent, always will be, and 90 per cent of our work is in Kent. This is a business model opposite to many other firms."

Over the years it has been associated with scores of county developments, among the latest being the transformation of an old chalk quarry in Northfleet, which included filling the pit with approximately 200,000 tonnes of single-source material from its quarry in Aylesford, ready for 50 homes.

But it's probably best known to regular county travellers for the Eclipse Park, just off the M20's junction seven.

Four of its large buildings are occupied and there is outline planning permission for another, and detailed permission for three more. There are plans for another two.

Some big names are already in occupation, including ASB Law, accountancy firm DSH, Software of Excellence, Orbit South, DHA Planning, and Towergate Insurance, run by Peter Cullum, who is reckoned to be Kent's richest man.

In fact, it's the site of Towergate's headquarters, the nerve-centre for the firm's more than 3,800 staff across its 100 UK offices. Its interior has been designed to very high international business specifications and has been generally applauded as highly impressive.

Paul Dyer, co-founder of Towergate, said: "The new HQ will give us room to expand. Plus, Maidstone is a commercial catchment area for readily available, skilled employees. This will be vital when we recruit new members of staff for our expanding business."

Gallagher is also a local producer and supplier of Kentish ragstone, aggregate and ready-mixed concrete, and it has supplied the aggregate materials for the construction of a giant wind turbine project at Little Cheyne Court, near Rye.

The first of 26 turbines was moved by road last June to its new permanent location. Workers had been on site for months preparing the concrete foundations, which were over 100ft deep requiring more than 15,000 cubic metres of concrete.

It also meant the removal of in excess of 46,000 lorry loads of spoil from the area. This development project by NPower Renewables is intended to generate enough electricity to power more than 33,000 homes in the area and is the South East's largest onshore wind farm.

Sub-tenant's Springhead expansion

CAXTONS' Kent Thameside office in Gravesend has let a modern semi-detached unit on the Springhead Enterprise Park in Northfleet.

The tenant of unit A4, Neutrik (UK), which manufactures professional audio connector products, has sublet. Unit A4 has a first floor office, and has six allocated parking spaces. The property totals 5,868 sq ft, with the ground floor measuring 5,242 sq ft and the first floor office 626 sq ft.

New sub-tenant, Thompson & Leigh, a plumbing and heating company, said it was attracted to the unit by its strategic location and the right size for expansion.

The property, pictured right, has been let on a sublease until June 23, 2011, at a rent of £38,150 per annum.

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Explore all options and cope together

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

IN HARD times, landlords and tenants need to find ways of just coping.

Andrew Gough, partner and head of commercial property at law firm Furley Page, says it's a question of give and take.

He said: "A landlord won't want to forfeit a lease and have an empty property if short-term measures can be negotiated to help a tenant through a difficult patch.

"By the same token, a tenant with cashflow problems but confident of the long-term future of his business will be looking for flexibility if this helps.

"If not confident, he will want to dispose of the property as quickly as possible."

Mr Gough suggests some options:

• Negotiate payment of rent on a monthly basis rather than quarterly in advance. The British Retail Consortium first called for landlords to accept rents monthly back in 2006 with the British Property Federation supporting the move in 2008. The downside? It increases the administrative burden for the landlord.

WORK IT OUT: Andrew Gough

• Rent suspension, where the tenant remains in possession of the property, clocking up the debt owed.

The downside? If he becomes insolvent and goes into administration the landlord may be an unsecured creditor for a much greater sum.

He can't sue for rent, send in the bailiffs or forfeit the lease without the administrators' consent or a court order.

• Assign the lease, which generally needs the landlord's consent. From the tenant's position, time may be of the essence so he should prepare any application with as much detail as possible.

The landlord is required by statute to consider an application within a reasonable time and the tenant can sue the landlord for damages if he fails to do so or unreasonably refuses, or withholds, consent. If you decide on this option it is worth considering:

1. Providing an information pack on the assignee's financial ability. This needs to include a bank and trading reference, three-year accounts for an existing business and information on the business trading record

2. If it's a new business the assignee may have to bite the bullet and offer a guarantee or rent deposit. He must also provide bank references for the named guarantor.

A landlord is not obliged to come back with a counter offer and a request for a guarantor if he feels the assignee is not of sufficient financial standing. Making the offer up front requires the landlord to make an immediate decision.

3. Ensuring you can meet all the other lease preconditions before an assignment is permitted.

• Underletting, if permitted. The same steps should be taken as for an assignment. The tenant who is sub-letting may want the comfort of a guarantor but this needn't be offered to the head landlord.

However, the underlease may have to comply with specific provisions such as the exclusion from security or tenure – or the stipulation that the rents are the same as the rent of the head lease. You will have to meet these provisions even if you think the landlord is being unreasonable requesting them.

There are ways of getting round the requirement to underlet at the same rent as in the head lease but these have to be properly documented and disclosed.

The good news is that several landlords have announced they will waive the requirement as long as the rent is at least the level of the market rents at the time of letting.

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A few wise words from Catherine

LANDLORDS should choose their words carefully. If a tenant asks for your consent, think twice before responding with phrases such as "in principle" and "subject to licence".

The warning comes from Catherine Wolstencroft (pictured right), associate and specialist in commercial property law at legal firm Furley Page.

She said: "Landlords should take care when dealing with any requests from tenants in order to avoid unintentionally giving consent when conditions remain to be fulfilled or formalities completed."

An example of how easy it is for words to be taken the wrong way, she said, was highlighted in the Court of Appeal case between Aubergine Enterprises and Lakewood International in 2002. The court ruled that letters sent to the tenant headed 'subject to licence' and containing conditions amounted to actual written consent. Since then, agents and advisors have tried to avoid falling into the same trap by expressly stating that any correspondence with the tenant doesn't constitute actual consent. But the issue has raised its head again following the recent Chancery case of Alchemy Estates v Astor.

She added: "A judge in the case made the point that even when coupled with the statement that 'such consent will only be provided on the completion and delivery of a formal licence executed as a deed', the wording wouldn't avoid the inadvertent granting of consent where it was expressed to be subject only to reasonable conditions.

"Although this observation didn't form part of the formal judgement in the case, it's an indication of the way the court will approach such questions and will undoubtedly encourage a tenant determined to press ahead with plans without a formal licence."

Furley Page has offices in Canterbury, Chatham, Whitstable and Lloyds of London, offering legal services across wide-ranging practice areas in commercial and private client law. It is led by 21 partners and supported by more than 100 legal staff. For more details, visit www.furleypage.co.uk.

Quango's years of success

FOUNDRY: The mixed-use development in Faversham includes a 12-acre lake

NOT many quangos can point to such direct tangible results as Locate in Kent, the investment promotion agency for the county.

Quite simply, in 12 years it has helped more than 500 companies to locate and expand in Kent, and create about 23,000 jobs.

Between April 2008 and March this year, it helped businesses take some 1.4 million sq ft of industrial space and nearly 122,000 sq ft of office space, compared with 371,611 sq ft of industrial and 119,273 sq ft of office space in 2007-08 (although that period also included 5.5 million sq ft for Thanet Earth).

By **TONY PATEY**
tony.patey@kosmedia.co.uk

In 2004-05, the figures were 237,650 sq ft for industrial and 56,206 sq ft for office space.

That's impressive by any standard and it is even more notable that its corporate relocation services are free and include access to its comprehensive commercial property search for office, industrial and warehouse business property.

Established in 1997, Locate in Kent is a company funded and supported by Kent County Council, South East England Development Agency (Seeda), Medway Council, local councils, the Kent Developers' Group, a partnership of leading commercial property developers and partners from the private sector.

Locate in Kent's Lizzy Jerome has done a round-up of its latest successes linked with Kent-based property developers Mark Quinn and George Wilson:

- They have exchanged contracts with Cyprus-based Girne American University on a Canterbury city centre property that will be the foundation of a new urban learning campus.

It will bring with it a predicted investment of £25 million and an influx of 2,000 students over the next five years. Serhat Akpinar, chancellor and founder of Girne University, said: "I fell in love with Canterbury when Sevim, my daughter, took a law degree at the University of Kent."

- The pair have also recently won planning consent for a mixed-use scheme in Faversham. Plans involve the regeneration of a former iron foundry into a 111-unit residential scheme overlooking a 12-acre lake and a three-acre commercial scheme.

The commercial site will provide a range of sizes from 1,000 to 80,000 sq ft and is an extension to Faversham's strong commercial district that includes Shepherd Neame, the UK's oldest brewery, and a Marks & Spencer distribution hub.

Foundry

Mr Quinn, director of Quinn Wilson Developments, said: "The Foundry is perhaps one of the best located developments in Kent and we can't wait to make this scheme happen."

- A long-vacant site in Deal is to be finally developed by the duo after planning consent was received.

The scheme involves the construction of a range of small business units adjacent to an existing estate, Minters Yard, in Southwall Road.

- Mr Wilson has recently won a competitive tender process to acquire the one-acre former Eddington Nursery in Herne Bay to develop a commercial property scheme.

Canterbury council obtained consent for an office and industrial scheme on the site which is being developed by George Wilson Holdings and involves the development of 26,000 sq ft of grade A office space of which 75 per cent is now sold or let.

It is expected the scheme will require a reconfigured planning consent and that initial groundworks can begin this summer.

Demand for units of about 1,000 sq ft suggests the scheme will be popular and defy the downturn. Up to 35 jobs will be created.

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'Upturn is on the way'

POSITIVE interest is being shown by companies in snapping up accommodation on business parks – not only by those already established but also from new ventures says Tony Skelton, managing director of Stour Valley Estates.

Drawing on his 30 years of experience in business within east Kent, Mr Skelton (pictured right) predicts the recession will continue for the rest of this year but says an upturn in the market is on the way.

Having worked through three recessions, he went on to say: "The current one is showing the sharpest decline so far. My view is that certain sections of the market still have a small amount to fall. Generally there is a lot more interest in obtaining accommodation by well-established businesses as well as those just starting up new ventures."

The Skelton family business started with car showrooms in Canterbury and Ashford, which evolved into a property company which now owns three business parks – Stour Valley at Canterbury, CT3 Business Park at Aylesham, and Chilham Business Park, near Canterbury.

Stour Valley is home to 15 small and large businesses including Wyevale Garden Centre, East Kent Audi, USA Hand Car Wash and the newly-opened warehouse for the Pilgrims Hospice.

The purchase of land at Aylesham provided an opportunity to start developing a brownfield site.

"We bought CT3 in 2000 and the site is now 70 per cent occupied and discussions are ongoing with proposed new tenants," Mr Skelton said.

One of the most recent occupiers at the Chilham park is the Carmichael Education Centre, a school for children with special needs.

A MAJOR healthcare company has pinpointed Swanley for its South East distribution centre. Phoenix HealthCare Distribution, part of the pan-European Phoenix Pharmahandel Group and the Continent's largest pharmaceutical distribution company, is moving to Akzo Nobel's Unit 6 at Mark Way.

It will form the firm's base for its regional logistics operation. The site comprises 20,637 sq ft and includes a 3,000 sq ft of office/admin space near M25/M20 intersection.

It has been let for a term of 15 years at an initial rent of £131,000 per annum. The 1960s warehouse is being fully refurbished for occupation.

In the UK, Phoenix has 14 distribution centres. It also has a network of 500 pharmacies operating under the Rowlands Pharmacy banner. It also own the Numark trading group and provides products to pharmacies, hospitals and health centres.

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Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear

1909

100 YEARS AGO – KENT'S Colin Blythe was clapped on to the field by 16,000 Middlesex supporters at Lord's, following his heroics in the previous Test with Australia, when he posted match figures of 11 for 102.

Blythe confounded a correspondent to The Sportsman, who noted of his selection: "He is not a Test match player."

Blythe confessed to feeling overcome by the reception, but his team-mates were unaffected and Middlesex were lucky to escape with a draw.

Kent were 69 runs to the good after the first innings and batted well in the four and three-quarter hours they were allowed on a rain-affected Tuesday, setting the home side a daunting 463 to win.

East Malling's Edward Humphreys made a century, but the elements spared Middlesex by washing out the final day.

1959

50 YEARS AGO – A belligerent crowd at the Bat & Ball ground in Gravesend slow-handclapped an unambitious Lancashire side, whose batting was described as "pathetic" by one correspondent.

Lancashire were effectively batted out of the game by Colin Cowdrey, who made 198 in five-and-a-half hours.

They made no effort to chase the target and Kent lacked the kind of incisive spin bowler need on a dry wicket. With the game dying on its feet, Cowdrey decided to entertain the spectators by bowling himself from one end and wicket-keeper Godfrey Evans from the other.

Both Cowdrey and Evans were poised for Test match call-ups likely to rule them out for up to eight weeks.

1984

25 YEARS AGO – GRAHAM Hurry was the star of the show at the Grasstrack Sidecar Association meeting at Colebridge Farm in Egerton, taking two wins in the 500 cc class.

Darren Bishop of Maidstone took the 250 class.

Kent were left to count the cost of a rash of postponements and poor attendances. A lower than expected crowd for the opening fixture of the season with Essex didn't help and the county then had to contend with the loss of a John Player League game with Surrey and a rain-affected bank holiday, when Hampshire were the scheduled opponents.

Losses were calculated at £10,000.

CLASS ACT: Colin Cowdrey almost beat Lancashire singlehandedly in 1959

'I've lived off '68 final ever since'

As Manchester United aim for Champions League glory against Barcelona on Wednesday, one of Kent's European Cup winners talks about the final and a Reds career

Going over old ground

By FRED ATKINS

BORN in the Two Brewers pub in Yalding in 1946, David Sadler, Kent's most decorated footballer, literally stood out from his contemporaries.

A 6ft teenager, his prolific scoring record for Maidstone earned him a move to Manchester United at the age of just 17.

"Inititially I went there as a centre forward," he told Kent on Sunday." But I think at the very top level, at centre forward at least, I was found wanting."

He was converted into a midfielder, but his scoring instincts proved crucial when he equalised during the 1968 European Cup semi-final against Real Madrid.

RED DEVIL: David Sadler played at Old Trafford when Matt Busby's team surged to the 1968 final

Silenced

"In the first half we got what can only be described as a bit of a hiding – we were 3-1 down, but it felt as if it was 6-1.

"I just followed in, got a touch on the ball and as I carried on, the run took me past the goal and behind the back," he said, having silenced the stadium.

"Depending on which book you read there was anything between 125,000 and 145,000 people there and it was as if someone had just switched a radio off.

"I was thinking 'what's all the fuss about'. That put us level on the tie and Bill Foulkes of all people got the winner."

Forty one years on, his memories of the 4-1 win against Benfica in the final at Wembley are equally vivid.

"The game was going pretty much our way," he said. "I've seen it since and it was a pretty good final, but I personally recall a couple of things. I crossed and Bobby [Charlton] scored, which was a fairly rare event in itself."

But with 15 minutes left Eusebio equalised and a heart-stopping moment followed: "Eusebio was through on goal on his own and Alex Stepney made the save. If that had gone in it's unlikely we'd have got back into it."

Instead, the game went to extra time and Sadler's confidence in his team-mates was vindicated when George Best, Charlton and Brian Kidd made it 4-1.

Sadler went on to have successful careers both in and outside football, but freely admits: "I've lived off the final ever since." And he realises it could have been very different.

"I've watched the game since and I should have scored," he admits. "But I always say it's just as well I didn't as we wouldn't have had that exciting period of extra time."

Picture: PA PHOTOS

KENT LAD: Glen Johnson, pictured in his Chelsea days, is from Dartford

County players who have made it into Europe

KENT may have produced enough top-class cricketers to fill a regiment, but its record of churning out footballers is less impressive.

There are, however, exceptions and aside from David Sadler, two Kent-born players have appeared in European Cup or Champions League semi-finals.

Dartford's Glen Johnson appeared for Chelsea in the second leg of their 5-3 aggregate defeat to Monaco in 2004, a game the Blues drew 2-2.

Gary Pallister, who sounds like a native Smoggie from Middlesbrough but was in fact born in Ramsgate, was part of the Manchester United side that lost 2-0 on aggregate to Borussia Dortmund in 1997.

Jon Harley, from Allington in Maidstone made one Champions League appearance, in the Stade Velodrome back in 2000, ending up on the losing side as Chelsea were beaten 1-0 by Olympique Marseille in the second group stage.

Ron Saunders was from Birkenhead, but spent four seasons banging in the goals for Tonbridge Angels during his playing days.

Saunders was the architect of the Aston Villa side that won the 1982 European Cup.

The loosest connection of all is perhaps that of Spanish Real Madrid star Michel Salgado, whose fluent English is even more remarkable given that he once attended a language school in Margate.

In an interview with the Independent in 2004, Salgado said: "I loved it. I stayed with a family. It was a completely new experience. The man of the house was a typically English bloke. He had a party once at the house and I've never seen people drink so much beer in my life."

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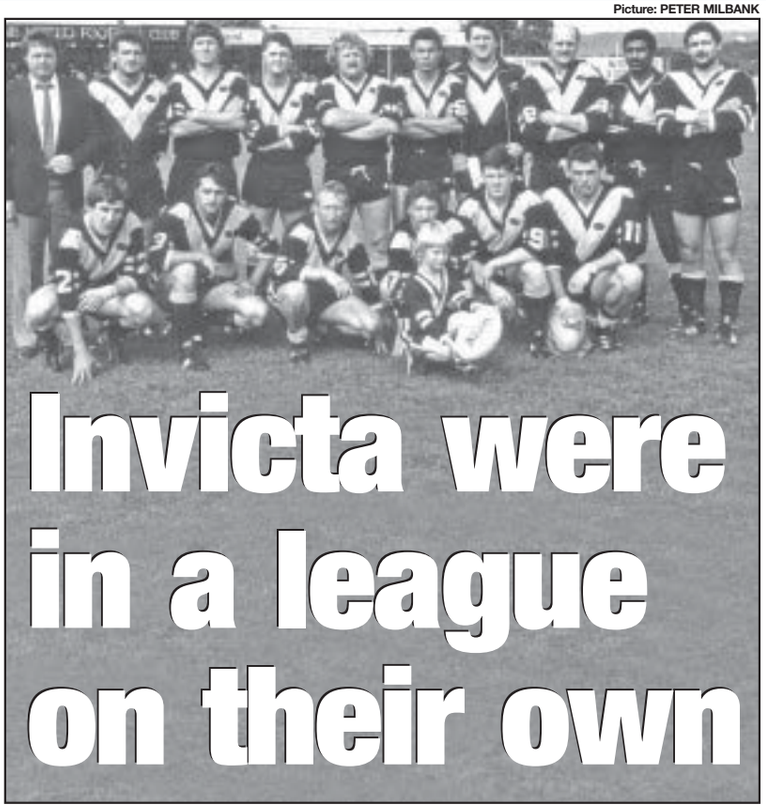
It's 25 years since since the failure one of the county's great sporting experiments – an attempt to introduce professional rugby league to the Garden of England. Fred Atkins looks at the story of Kent Invicta

Invicta were in a league on their own

Picture: PETER MILBANK



DOOMED: Kent Invicta kicked off amid much fanfare but the attempt to bring rugby league to county fans turned sour as the dream died and finances spiralled out of control

YOU couldn't fault the men behind Kent Invicta for ambition. For their first game, in Division Two of the Rugby League, at the start of the 1983/94 season, the driving force behind the club, Paul Faires, a missionary for the 13-man code decided to print 10,000 programmes.

In one fell swoop, Faires expected to create a sporting institution bigger than both Gillingham FC and Kent County Cricket Club combined, with two and a half centuries of tradition between them.

He confidently predicted 8,000 fans would watch Invicta's first-ever game, against Cardiff at the Athletic Ground in Maidstone, and assumed not only would everyone present buy a programme, but also that these items would become collectable.

"We had them coming out of our ears," remembers club official Peter Milbank. "He [Faires] was so evangelical. I took boxes of them home and tried to swap a few when we went to away games, but they weren't collectors' items. We ended up dumping loads of them."

Hole

A crowd of 1,815 turned up to watch Invicta lose their first ever game, 32-12 and you didn't need to be 'Sirralan' Sugar to work out this left a gigantic hole in the business plan.

During the early 80s, rugby league was on a mission to expand the game beyond its heartland in the north.

A professional team was launched in Fulham with reasonable success, so Kent was seen as a viable market, especially with union then still an amateur game.

Yet in hindsight, Invicta were doomed before they kicked a ball. The game wasn't even played recreationally in the south east – a team called the Bexleyheath Lions formed in 1982, but played only friendlies – and Kent simply didn't support spectator sports in the way Yorkshire and Lancashire did.

Pulling more than 1,800 people to a game of rugby league wasn't that bad – only Gillingham would have got a bigger crowd in the county that weekend and it dwarfed the crowds seen at union matches.

But Faires publicly stated he was "appalled at the people of Kent", an emotional reaction perhaps, but one not likely to earn him sympathy from a sceptical public, who may have deduced that any sport so beloved of professional northerners like Colin Welland and Michael Parkinson must have had something intrinsically wrong with it.

As a team Invicta were more than respectable, but this was part of the problem. In creating a team able to compete in the second tier of the game, they invested heavily in experienced northern-based players, plus a couple of promising Kiwis who went on to become full internationals.

They were billeted in hotel accomodation at unsustainable expense and within three months the club was bankrupt and Faires was gone.

The money run out and a succession of directors came and left until Maidstone United chairman Jim Thompson took control.

They somehow survived the campaign and remarkably winger Frank Feighan won the BBC's try-of-the-season award, for a miraculous effort in a televised cup tie with Castleford.

But after that fleeting success, crowds dwindled again to around the 400 mark.

"The Castleford game was the last throw of the dice," said Milbank. "BBC Sportsnight did a feature and we got quite a lot of publicity, but again only 1,643 turned up."

After the season's conclusion, 25 years ago this week, it was announced Invicta would move to Southend.

The switch was never adequately explained – gates at Roots Hall were even worse than they were in Maidstone, with crowds sometimes dipping into double figures.

It was a short journey from Essex to oblivion – after one season Southend Invicta folded and professional rugby league hasn't been seen in either Kent or Essex since, although Invicta did prove a fertile ground for players, most memorably Mark Elia, who went on to play for St Helens and New Zealand.

The game is experiencing a mini-revival, with both the Medway Dragons and the Kent Ravens playing at a decent amateur standard.

But a revived professional scene seems unlikely.

• ***Peter Milbank would like to hear from anyone who remembers Kent Invicta - you can contact him on PMilbankJ@aol.com.***

SIGNED UP: Michael Gash is one of only five Fleet players contracted for next season

Fears budget cut will fuel Fleet exodus

A NUMBER of players could be on their way out of Ebbsfleet United after a heavily reduced playing budget was ratified by the club's website owners this week.

The Blue Square Premier League club announced earlier this month they would be forced to reduce their budget for next season, after only 10,000 of the MyFc owners renewed their £35 subscriptions in February.

The club held a five-day vote, which ended on Tuesday, with almost 60 per cent voting in favour of a draft playing budget of £5,000 – half the amount of last season.

Chairman John Moules believes many Fleet players will be looking elsewhere to play their football with the club only able to offer 43-week contracts.

Out of contract Fleet boss, Liam Daish, is also yet to be offered a new deal and is in talks with the playing squad about their future.

Moules told Kent on Sunday: "I think the choice which has been voted for is the correct one. There is not an awful lot of room for movement in the budget at the moment.

"Most of the players are back from holiday and Liam will be talking to them about their future. With changes to the budget, I would imagine a number of players will be looking at clubs elsewhere as they were previously on 52-week contracts."

Only goalkeeper Lance Cronin, Darius Charles, Michael Gash, Steven Springett and Michael West are on contract at the club for next season.

The first departure from Stonebridge Road is midfielder Danny Slatter, who has joined Ryman Premier League side Billericay Town.

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FAST TRACK: Mike Conway is part of elite set

Conway to join UK Indy 500 legends

MIKE Conway will belong alongside a group of elite British drivers that includes Nigel Mansell, Graham Hill and Jim Clark this afternoon as he embarks on the famous Indy 500.

Only a handful of Brits have competed in one of motor racing's most famous and gruelling events and the Sevenoaks racer is the latest to experience the notorious 'brickyard'.

The 500-mile race, which takes place on a two-and-a-half mile oval circuit at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, is one of the oldest events on the motorsport calendar.

This evening will see the 93rd running of the event, which regularly attracts crowds in excess of 400,000. In the past the likes of Clark, Hill and former Formula One world champion Jacques Villenueve have all tasted victory in the race, which will see drivers complete 200 laps of the oval.

For Conway, the event has produced mixed emotions already, even though the green lights are yet to shine. The 24-year-old's Indy dreams were in doubt last week after a high speed accident in practice saw him rushed to hospital where he suffered bruised lungs and concussion.

Despite the crash at 200mph, he was able to take part in qualifying last weekend, where he secured 27th spot on the 33-car grid.

He told Kent on Sunday: "I have only driven around the place when the stands have been empty so come race day it will be awesome. I have only experienced driving qualifying laps so racing in traffic with around 30 cars will be something that will live long in my memory."

In a bid to achieve the best finish possible, Conway has enlisted the help of former Formula One driver Eddie Cheever and Indycar legend Al Unser Junior.

The pair have won the prestigious Indy 500 and know every inch of the circuit after competing in 34 races between them.

Doran catching up

AFTER impressing on the European stage, Liam Doran (pictured) is bidding to regain the lead in the British Rallycross Championship with victory at home circuit Lydden Hill on Bank Holiday Monday.

The Sittingbourne-based driver goes into the fourth round of the championship fourth in the driver's standings after a solid start to the season.

Doran, the son of former British champion Pat Doran, has been the driver to beat in the supercar category with two wins from the first three rounds of the season.

Only an engine problem with his Ford Fiesta at Pembrey two weeks ago prevented Doran from jumping into the outright championship lead.

Doran senior holds the lead in the championship along with Aylesbury driver Steve Hill on 73 points.

Picture: ADY KERRY

POPULAR: Thousands watched last year's European Open at the London Club and organisers are hoping for bigger crowds this year

Tour tees up free entry to see European Open

Crowds set to follow Daly and co at the London Club

By DAVID PRITCHARD

A WORLD-class field is set to attract more than 100,000 golf fans as the European Open returns to Kent this week.

Golf fans have enthusiastically embraced a European Tour scheme to give away free tickets for all four days of the £1.8 million tournament at the London Golf Club, near Ash. It is the first time the offer has been used for the whole tournament in Europe and about 80,000 had applied before Thursday's deadline.

Galleries are expected to exceed 100,000, double the overall figure for last year.

Heath Harvey, general manager at the London Club, told Kent on Sunday it was a rare chance to see elite sport for free.

"With no entry fee it is a tournament for the people, no one has to pay to come and see the golf," he said. "It's a lovely opportunity for golf enthusiasts to come and see some of the best players in the world competing on an amazing course in the heart of Kent.

"If we could double spectator numbers from last year it would be great for the county in terms of hosting an event of that calibre."

The club was praised by players and spectators after last year's event, which was their first on the main Tour. Sergio Garcia, Colin Montgomerie and Michael Campbell were among the stars in 2008, but if anything the field for this year's edition is even stronger.

The most eyecatching addition to the field is John Daly, who is certain to draw large galleries when the tournament begins on Thursday.

The 1995 Open champion is playing in Europe while he is serving a six-month ban from the PGA Tour for a series of indiscretions. It expires next month but North America's loss is very much Kent's gain.

Despite a chequered career, the 43-year-old has always been one of the sport's most popular players. The 'Daly effect' appears to be as strong as ever, as Harvey testifies.

"From the moment it was announced we've seen a surge in interest. He's one of those people everyone can relate to, there's something lovable about him and he's a wonderfully natural ball striker. It's exciting to have a character of that size playing."

European Open: Four to watch

SERGIO GARCIA

AGE: 29 **NATIONALITY:** Spanish
WORLD RANKING: 3
KOS LOWDOWN: Long established as one of the sport's leading names, Garcia is one of relatively few Europeans to thrive on North America's PGA Tour, where he has won seven tournaments. Garcia has already tasted victory this season, winning the European Tour's season opener in Shanghai. It will surely not be too long before the charismatic Ryder Cup star finally fulfils his talent and wins a major.
PREDICTION: After finishing second last year, expect the Spaniard to be in contention going into next Sunday's final round.

RORY McILROY

AGE: 20 **NATIONALITY:** Northern Irish
WORLD RANKING: 20
KOS LOWDOWN: Tipped to become the sport's next big name, the youngster won his first European Tour event in February whilst still a teenager. Averages more than 300 yards off the tee and is uncannily accurate with his irons. The biggest problem may be managing the hype, but a tie for 20th place in his first appearance at the US Masters last month suggests his momentum is showing no signs of slowing.
PREDICTION: After missing just two cuts all season, McIlroy will fancy his chances of emulating last year's top 10 finish at the London Club.

ANGEL CABRERA

AGE: 39 World ranking: 21
NATIONALITY: Argentinian
KOS LOWDOWN: With a similar career path to Vijay Singh, Cabrera's game is getting better as he gets older. After years of modest success, his career has exploded since winning the US Open in 2007. He kept his head on a dramatic final day at Augusta last month to win the US Masters in a play-off and become a multiple major winner.
PREDICTION: Cabrera has a tendency to blow hot and cold in big evensts, but if he makes the cut next week, golf enthusiasts should stand by for fireworks at the weekend.

Picture: GETTY IMAGES

JOHN DALY

AGE: 43 **WORLD RANKING:** 452
NATIONALITY: American
KOS LOWDOWN: Ignore the world ranking and the flashy trousers; 'Wild Thing' is a contender. The maverick has always made as many headlines off the course as he has on it during a roller-coaster career, but the double major winner still has the potential to succeed at the top level. Finished tied for second at the Italian Open a fortnight ago to suggest he is in decent form.
PREDICTION: With a game which should suit he London Club, Daly has a real chance of ending his five-year trophy drought.

Play-off final start of new era for Gills

Chief says club's potential is 'enormous'

By DAVID PRITCHARD

Pictures: ADY KERRY

GILLS TILL THEY DIE: Thousands travelled to see Simeon Jackson (inset) and co try for promotion in the League Two play-off final at Wembley yesterday

GILLINGHAM'S visit to Wembley has the potential to have a lasting legacy on the fan base, regardless of the result yesterday, according to the club's chief executive Mark Jones.

More than 30,000 fans made the trip to the national stadium for the League Two play-off final against Shrewsbury, which kicked off yesterday after Kent on Sunday went to press.

The numbers are more than six times the average league gate at Priestfield this season. It ensured they outnumbered their counterparts from Shropshire, despite Town having a slightly larger average attendance across the season.

Enthusiasm

Jones believes with no other Football League clubs nearby, it shows the latent enthusiasm for Gillingham in Medway and across Kent, something he is keen to tap into.

"Going to Wembley is something so very special, it's great and shows the potential of this club is enormous", he said.

"We've got to capitalise on these extra people and try to encourage them to come next year, buy season tickets and so forth. Days like Wembley galvanises that – eight and nine-year-olds now will still be talking about this in 10 years' time. It converts them and brings new people across, especially kids who are really important to us because they are our fans of the future. "

Dropping into the fourth tier of English football saw average attendances drop below 6,000 for the first time in more than a decade, but much of the damage was offset by lower season ticket prices. Promotion always sees an immediate surge in gates, but there is evidence even a defeat yesterday would see higher attendances next season.

Last month Gillingham unveiled their season ticket prices for next season. While there were increases across the board, they were set at League Two prices to give fans an incentive to buy early to avoid further increases if the team sealed promotion.

Despite the economic climate and the relative lack of warning given to fans, the club have already sold 2,700 season tickets – almost 80 per cent of this season's total – for the 2009/10 campaign.

Jones said: We're very pleased with the figures. Fans had an opportunity to buy at a discount and that has happened so we thank everyone for that, it's great news."

Stones' shares sold off

MAIDSTONE United chairman Paul Bowden-Brown has sold a percentage of shares in the club to an unnamed investor and has confirmed that two directors have resigned.

In a turbulent week for the Stones, the club announced that Oliver Ash and Patrick Hole had resigned as directors and shares have been sold to an investor, believed to be the club's general manager Bill Williams and that the club would definitely not be playing in Sittingbourne next season.

Bowden-Brown told Kent on Sunday he had acted to ensure a better deal for the club and that the club had "offers" to move elsewhere – reportedly to Ebbsfleet, Ashford or Tonbridge.

Responding to critics who said he should have got a new groundsharing deal in place before abandoning Bourne Park, Bowden-Brown argued his hands were tied by league rules.

"We're legally bound," he said. "I cannot arrange a deal behind Sittingbourne's back and we couldn't leave an existing agreement until all monies were paid in full. I did that with Sittingbourne on Monday."

A difficult week for the Kent club ended on a bright note as striker Meshach Nugent has re-signed and goalkeeper Jamie Turner has joined from Ramsgate.

"[Nugent] is such an important signing for us," manager Alan Walker told the club's website. "We thought we had lost him to another club in our division as he received an incredibly attractive offer that would have paid him almost double what he earned with us."

MYSTERY BUYER: Paul Bowden-Brown has sold shares to an unnamed investor

With Andy Walker stalling on a deal, the Stones moved quickly to sign Turner, who played under Alan Walker at Tonbridge.

"I believe Andy did want to re-sign but we could not risk losing out on two keepers, so we took the decision to sign Jamie right away. I can only give Andy the highest amount of praise because he was superb for us last season and never once let us down."

Walker's departure follows that of Elliott Bradbrook, who has joined Dartford.

Fisher triumphs as sun shines on trials

CONDITIONS were ideal for last weekend's Hunter Trial at Chilham Park, with the going nearly perfect after a week of rain leading up to the event.

On the day itself, barring a shower, the rain held off and more than 260 competitors made the most of it, on everything from retired race horses to Silver Fox, a pony that has qualified for the Royal International House Show and was ridden by Scarlett Worrow.

The Open Class was won by Nigel Fisher, a past Master of the East Kent foxhounds, on his skewbald horse Mostyn.

The event is attracting competitors from further and further afield. One, from Essex, said: "Coming here for the Hunter Trials in this beautiful setting makes a wonderful day out for us; we have nothing like it at home."

Hockey trio enjoy their Big Night Out

THREE of the county's top hockey figures scooped prizes at the inaugural Big Night Out awards last weekend.

Ashley Jackson fought off stiff competition to be named Young Performance Player of the Year at the ceremony in Nottingham.

The 21-year-old, who was born in Chatham, but now plays his club hockey in the Netherlands, was a key part of the Great Britain side that finished fifth at the Beijing Olympics last summer.

The other two awards went to umpires from Canterbury.

Andy Mair picked up the Performance Umpire of the Year gong after an excellent season. The experienced official has more than 10 years of international experience and took charge of the bronze medal match at the Beijing Olympics.

Paul Walker won the Young Performance Umpire of the Year after a meteoric rise over the last 12 months.

The 19-year-old he became the youngest English official to be awarded the international umpiring badge, following his performances at the Australian Youth Olympic Festival in January.

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KENT ASK McLAREN TO FINISH IPL STINT EARLY

Parnell departure leaves county lacking numbers

By GLENN PEARSON

KENT are hoping to recall all-rounder Ryan McLaren from the Indian Premier League (IPL) to bolster their ranks after the departure of overseas star Wayne Parnell.

McLaren was signed by the Mumbai Indians to play in the lucrative IPL Twenty20 event that started on April 18, but as yet, the South African is yet to feature in the competition.

The 26-year-old is due to return to the county at the end of next week, but Kent are hopeful of doing a deal with his IPL franchise over the course of this weekend that will see the South African Kolpaker return to Canterbury early.

Rob Key's side are eager for the all-rounder to be part of their Twenty20 campaign that starts on Bank Holiday Monday with the visit to Canterbury of old adversaries, the Essex Eagles.

Club chairman, George Kennedy, told Kent on Sunday the county were hoping to speak to the Mumbai Indians so that McLaren can play for the county in all four Twenty20 games scheduled for this week.

"We're hoping to get Ryan McLaren back early but we won't know until this weekend. We are asking his team to release him, as they hold his contract.

"He hasn't played for them at all, which is frustrating for the player and we are desperate for him to join up with our squad. We have four games next week and we would like to have him back to play in those."

Visa problems

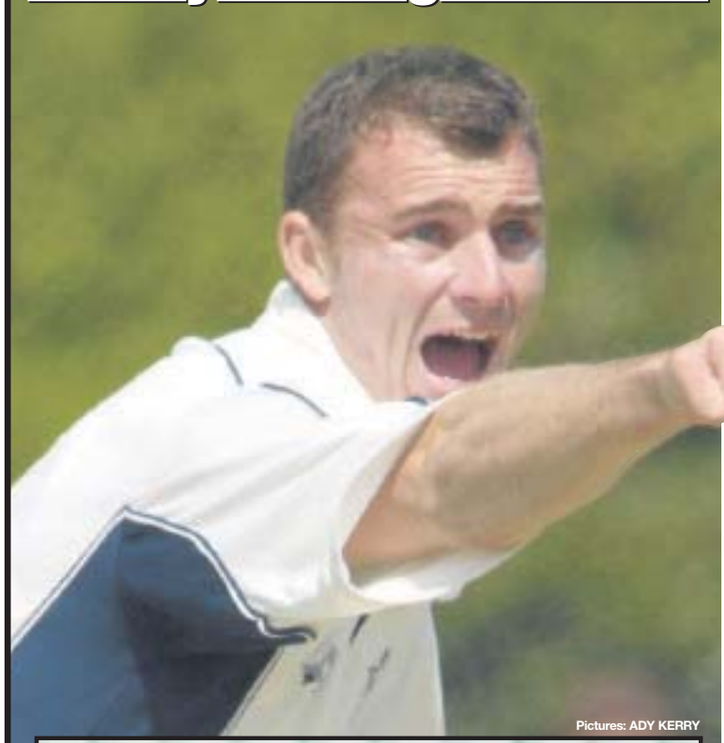
The Kent Spitfires, who won the Twenty20 Cup in 2007 and lost in last year's dramatic final against the Middlesex Crusaders, will be light in numbers for this year's competition after overseas international Wayne Parnell's contract ended in the week as he meets up with the Proteas ahead of the World Twenty20 that begins on June 1.

Skipper Rob Key also departs on Saturday to join up with England and although the county were hopeful of bringing in an overseas player to cover the domestic Twenty20, it now looks as the Spitfires will have to use their squad to get through.

Kennedy said: "With the Twenty20 starting tomorrow, it's extremely unlikely we will get an overseas player in as everyone is pretty much signed up for the World Twenty20."

Parnell hopes to return to Canterbury when the World T20 ends on June 21, which would mean he is available for the end of Kent's Twenty20 campaign, the Pro40 and the remainder of the County Championship.

Kennedy added: "We are interested in bringing him back but we don't want to go through the visa problem again. We would have to be pretty sure he can come straight back and we will speak to him about that after the World Twenty20."



Pictures: ADY KERRY

KEY MEN: Rob Key (left) needs to strengthen his squad after South African Wayne Parnell's (right) spell at St Lawrence ended and Kent are looking to do a deal with the IPL to bring Ryan McLaren (main pic) back early

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